

# YEMEN TIMES

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## AT COURT, YEMEN TIMES GETS HELP FROM ALL SIDES ...

It was 9:30 a.m., and Judge Hussain Al-Mahdi, Chair of the South Sanaa Court, called the court to order. The first case of the day was the Yemen Times vs. the Ministry of Information. In a long and eloquent presentation, Press Prosecutor Abdul-Qader Hamzah and his assistant presented their case against Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and the Yemen Times. "The accused has written an article in which he was critical of the Chairman of the Presidential Council. He has used words to belittle the very head of state," the prosecutor stated.

"I ask of the court to put heavy and appropriate punishment on Dr. Al-Saqqaf," the prosecutor demanded in conclusion. The defence council was made-up of seven lawyers. The first was appointed by the Yemen Times; the second, by the Lawyers' Syndicate; the third, by the Journalists' Syndicate; the fourth, by the Sanaa University Syndicate; the fifth, by the Organization for the Defence of Liberties and Rights; the sixth, by Raay newspaper (also accused for printing the Yemen Times article in Arabic); and the seventh lawyer was assigned by the National Conference. There were more lawyers who attend the sessions and give their advice as volunteers.

Three prominent lawyers - Abdul-Ilah Al-Marwani, Moqbil Haiderah, Ahmed Al-Abiadh, led the defence. Al-Marwani put forth that the prosecutor's office as well as the judges had no jurisdiction because they have not fulfilled the constitutional requirements (such as taking the oath) to complete the procedures and formalities for taking up the duties. Moqbil Haiderah presented that the accusations failed to pin-point any crimes. "If the prosecutor says that my client has criticized the chairman of the presidential council, I ask you, 'Is that a crime?'" he asked.

Ahmed Al-Abiadh asked for authorization to the prosecutor's office from the chairman of the presidential council whom they were defending. The presiding judge was Hussain Al-Mahdi, a strong man with integrity and independent mind. After listening to the prosecutor and defence, he told the prosecutor that he wanted as more clearly defined accusation. The prosecutor's office asked for a postponement to work out his case better. "I will give you a one-week postponement. Next Thursday, we meet again to hear the prosecution's case. This court adjourns," he declared. Speaking to a press correspondent, the judge said that he is looking at the case with full and complete objectivity, although "The case is highly politicized," he indicated.

Attending the court session were parliamentarians, journalists, university professors, foreign researchers, and many sympathetic persons. Many persons attending the session were pleased with the outcome. "This is a historic day for more than one reason. First, it is already a good sign that the rulers will revert to the courts to get even with their critics, and not to take direct punitive



action by themselves, as in the past. Second, the course this case is beginning to take shows that it will be a trial of corruption and the regime rather than of the Yemen Times. That is why I call this date - 15th July, 'Justice Day'," said Al-Marwani who was quite happy with the way things started.



- The Water Reservoir of the Sanaa Area. p. 4
- Constitutional Amendments Seminar p. 5
- Future Newspaper ! p. 7
- Yemeni Children at Risk: Efforts of Radda Barnen p. 13

### Permanent Features:

Review of Local Press: p.6



Letters to the Editor: p.8

French Pages 10+11



### HUMAN RIGHTS: TRUE MEASUREMENT OF OUR HUMANNESS

The report on the human rights situation in 1992 is quite bleak. It was one of the worst years in the human rights record, according to a report released last month. Over 110 countries have practised torture, and some 45 countries have used direct assassinations to liquidate opponents of the regime. By far, the worst cases of human rights violations were in the former Yugoslavia and Somalia. The report laments the politicization of the human rights issue by the leading countries of the New World Order. "When an allied country violates human rights, the leaders of the world order turn a blind eye, but when the violations come from a country seen as an adversary, then hell is let loose." Such an attitude reduces the credibility of human rights as an issue independent of any political maneuvering. Yemen continues to ride high according to the report, in spite of several clear violations. One major issue with Yemen is the Mansoor Rajih case, a prisoner of conscience who still languishes in the central prison of Taiz. The poet and literary person is charged with murder, which according to many sources is a frame-up. He was a member of the NDF, an anti-regime opposition during the 1980s. Human rights remains a true measurement of the level of our humanness and degree of civilized nature of our inter-relations.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### If It Ain't Broken, Don't Fix It

Now, the political leadership of this country has embarked on a major effort to push through various constitutional amendments. Of course, we do not know whether the current constitution needs any amendments because it has never been implemented.

No one can say for certain what is wrong with the constitution, and even the most zealous change advocator cannot pin down anything in the constitution that cannot wait. "Name the most pressing element that requires immediate change in the constitution." I put forth that question to many in the coalition government as well as in the senior party ranks. No one has a satisfying answer.

On the other hand, there are many pressing issues that deserve the full and immediate attention of the political leadership. Why can't we attend to matters that are pertinent to the immediate needs of the people? Again no one has an answer.

The exercise regarding the constitutional amendments is a misplaced one. There are two issues here.

One, even if the coalition partners are able to push through their amendments, time is running out. The original 150-day reprieve (extension period approved by parliament for the presidential council) is already only 100 days. Yet, the official request for the amendments has not, as yet, been filed with the House of Representatives. I do not think the system is efficient enough to push through the amendments within the time left, even without any resistance from other circles. That may force a constitutional crisis, and the leadership may be forced to break the law and/or circumvent the constitution, again.

Second, why do we have to attend to issues that are not really pressing for the majority of the people? Why should we fabricate issues to which we devote our resources and which will command our attention?

The constitution is workable as it is, and all that we need is to respect it and work within its dictates. Can our politicians show enough respect for it?

*The Publisher*  
عبد العزيز

#### Parliament Names Fifteen Persons to Supreme Electoral Commission

In its session of July 12th, the House of Representatives named the following fifteen persons to membership of the Supreme Electoral Commission:

1. Mohsen Al-Ulufi,
2. Saeed Al-Hakeemi,
3. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlaifi,
4. Mohammed A. Al-Jayifi,
5. Abdullah Saleh Saba'ah,
6. Alawi Hassan Al-Attas,
7. Mahmood A. Arasi,
8. Hassan Ahmed Ba-Awm,
9. Mohammed Al-Mohatwari
10. Abdul-Razzaq Al-Ruqaihi,
11. Mohammed Ali Al-Aanisi,
12. Ameen Ali Ameen,
13. Abdul-Fattah Al-Baseer,
14. Khaled Ghailan,
15. Ali Abdul-Khaliq Hassan

The list now goes to the Presidential Council which will choose seven persons from among the fifteen to form the SEC.

According to the constitution, the term of the new SEC is four years starting from the date of the enactment of the law forming it, and it will supervise all the coming elections during this time.

#### Trouble With Government Program

The House of Representatives, which resumes its session tomorrow, July 19th, still haggles with the government program. An unconvinced parliament is asked to give its vote of confidence to the government and its program. "I see no program. It is just a bunch of rhetoric," fumed an angry parliamentarian who said he is being forced into submission.

#### Statistical Office Prepares for 1994 Census

The Central Organization for Statistics (COS) has just concluded a major training program for its census collectors. Mr. Abdu-Rabbo Jeradah, Chairman of the COS said that preparations are in full gear for the January 1994 population census of Yemen.

#### Somali Intellectuals Denounce the Random Bombardment in Somalia

The Somali community in Yemen has been upset with the US-led UN bombardment of Somali residential areas in a cleansing effort to force the Farah Aideed camp into submission. According to a communique signed by 55 Somali intellectuals in Yemen, the military actions are not called for, and they do not fall in line with the purpose of the UN forces in Somalia.

One month ago, a group of Somalis have visited the UN Resident Representative and a number of foreign embassies in Sanaa to express their disappointment with the UN forces in their country.

#### Saba'ah Hair Style

Who says all the fashion starts in Europe. Yemeni youth have started a new hair-style, called Saba'ah (meaning seven), which has become popular among teenagers.

The new hair-style is actually simple - most of the hair along the sides is almost shaved off, and the hair on top of the head is smoothed off in four directions.

These young teenagers and their Saba'ah hair-style are a sight. Barbers say it is easier to do than the regular styles.

#### Today, Ali Abdullah Saleh Begins His 16th Year in Power

Today, Sunday, July 18th marks the first day of the 16th year of the rule of Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh over Sanaa.

It was yesterday, fifteen years ago that he came to power following the assassination of President Ahmed Hussain Al-Ghashmi.

Mr. Saleh has given a troubled Yemen a certain degree of relative stability.

The PGC people celebrated the occasion with some fanfare.

#### Retrieving the Stolen Cars

In a major assault on one of the collection camps of stolen cars in Al-Hadaa, Dhamaro governorate, the Ministry of Interior has retrieved 150 cars last week.

The air-power support assault met with some resistance, although the highway robbers fled when faced with the superior government power.

A spokesman for the ministry of interior said that more collection camps will be targeted for future action.

One of the main issues now is how to return the cars to their original owners or the insurance companies.

#### Yemeni Envoy to Riyadh

President Ali Abdullah Saleh will send a reply message to HM King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia. Yemen Times learned that an envoy is going to carry the letter next week.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia are negotiating resumption of the talks on the border between the two countries. Both sides are eagerly pushing towards a successful conclusion.

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**PARLIAMENT IN EGYPT BACKS MUBARAK FOR THE THIRD TERM**

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt was virtually guaranteed a third six-year term in office last week after 441 of the 454 members of the lower house of parliament signed a petition supporting him.

The people's Assembly is due to meet on 21st July to nominate a single candidate for president, who will then be put to the people for approval in a referendum in October.

Mubarak needs the votes of two thirds of the total - 303 deputies - to win nomination, and a simple majority of votes cast in the referendum to be elected.

Only one other person had offered himself as a candidate, a little-known Alexandria businessman who officials said never had a chance.

The speaker of the people's Assembly, Fathi Sorour, told a news conference yesterday that the petition declared: "We are honoured to nominate president Mubarak for a new term based on our belief that the interests of Egypt require the continuation of the leader in the post of presidency."

The petition said the deputies were backing Mubarak "in response to the people's will, out of esteem for his huge achievements in all kinds of national work and in appreciation for his role as the great leader who laid the foundations of democracy and led the economic reform march." Asked why there were no other candidates, Sorour said: "The constitution says that parliament chooses the presidential candidate and we chose only President Mubarak."

"Those who express their intentions to run by making speeches are not considered candidates," he said in an apparent reference to Alexandria businessman Kamal Ahmed.

Sorour said five members of the one opposition party in the assembly, the leftist Union Progressive Party (UPP), and five independents had refused to support Mubarak's candidacy.

Three seats were vacant because members had died.

Egypt's other opposition parties, including the liberal Wafd and the Socialist Labour Party, boycotted the last parliamentary elections in 1990 and so have no seats in the assembly.

The UPP and the Muslim Brotherhood have criticized Mubarak's candidacy, arguing that he should have stepped down because he failed to introduce political changes.

"We object to the nomination of President Hosni Mubarak for a third term by a parliament whose constitutionality is challenged and does not truly represent the whole nation," the Muslim Brotherhood said in a statement.

"We demand comprehensive reforms that will restore to the nation its stability, progress and dignity and to the citizens their freedoms and security," the group added.

The Brotherhood said Mubarak had ignored its demands to apply Islamic law, allow the president to be elected directly by the people, release political prisoners and let Islamic groups set up political parties and newspapers.

Sorour said the Brotherhood reaction did not matter because the group was officially banned and enjoyed no recognition or legitimacy in Egypt's political life.

**US STRIKES G7 DEAL WITH JAPAN**

The United States obtained more concessions from Japan than the other Group of Seven partners during the G7 summit in Tokyo last week.

A new bilateral framework agreement struck between the US and Japan, in which the Japanese agreed to open its markets more to American goods and reduce its trade surplus, went much further than previous economic declarations.

The agreement left a bitter taste in the mouths of the Europeans, who obtained nothing from the summit. The other members are Britain, Canada, France, Germany and Italy.

After the conclusion of this agreement, wrested at the last minute in Tokyo by President Bill Clinton two hours before the his departure for Seoul, The EC ambassador Jean-Pierre Leng expressed "some surprise" at seeing precise undertakings from Japan to a single country.

"If it is confirmed there are arrangements providing for market share with sectoral targets for a given country, backed up by periodic monitoring, it is clear that would be a worrying development for international trade," he said.

But the United States, and Clinton especially, saw it as a great victory in the President's first G7 summit.

In the agreement, Japan accepted regular monitoring of "qualitative and quantitative" progress in the opening of its markets and a "significant" reduction in the medium term of its foreign surpluses.

For the Americans, the "medium term" means four to five years and "significant" can be translated into less than 2.0 percent of Gross National Product. Today's trade surplus hovers around 4.0 percent of GNP.

The Japanese also agreed to start negotiations in such areas as government procurements, automobiles, financial services and insurance. Leaders of the two countries will meet every six months to monitor progress.

During the summit, the US also saw as a "breakthrough" a market agreement with Japan, the EC and Canada, which is designed to unblock the stalled Uruguay Round of negotiations under the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade.

The accord, it said, would have a great impact on US unemployment and the economy.

It was difficult however to discern in the agreement between the world's two largest economies where the US made its concessions.

Clinton agreed to reduce the US budget deficit, which would help the world economy get back on track, but he has been interested in doing that all along.

It was also not known why the Japanese government would make concessions only a week before the general election, which could well bring an end to the ruling party's 40 years in power.

In any case, the two agreements were the main results of the summit.

"It was a good week for the American people," President Clinton said in a public radio broadcast to a home audience. "The G7 was a big, big plus for the concept of an open trading system and for the promise of future growth."

**ARISTIDE TO RETURN TO POWER IN OCTOBER**

Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has approved last week a United Nations plan that aims to restore him to power on 30th October.

Winning the approval of military leader General Raoul Cedras was considered the main obstacle to the talks since they began on the secluded Governor's Island, off New York's Manhattan, late last month.

But it was Aristide who delayed approval, although his spokesman had said he was hopeful, "that an agreement can be reached with some concessions on both sides".

Dante Caputo, the United Nations mediator, had spent a week negotiating with Aristide and Cedras in an effort to pave the way for Aristide's return to Haiti by 30th October.

Diplomats said a timetable on a transition phase until 30th October was still not settled, and that Aristide was worried the coup leaders would retain too much power in the interim.

Aristide originally wanted to return to Haiti in six weeks time.

Serge Charles, a spokesman for Cedras, said before the agreement was ratified that except for a few details, "our conclusion is that it is acceptable. We have no problem with any of the points".

Diplomats said the plan calls for parliament to grant an amnesty to military commanders who overthrew Aristide, after which Cedras, the army's high command and the Port-au-Prince police chief, Joseph Michel François, would be replaced.

Aristide is to name a new prime minister, who must be approved by the parliament elected before the coup. The army is to be restructured and a new civilian, rather than paramilitary, police force is to be created with United Nations help.

Caputo proposed that an unspecified number of United Nations personnel would help create and train a new police force and restructure the armed forces, but it is not clear what form this would take.

The military has ruled Haiti with a firm, some even say ruthlessly, hand since it took power in a bloody coup 21 months ago.

Among the propositions put before Aristide and Cedras by Caputo was that a United Nations Security Council oil, arms and financial assets embargo against Haiti would be suspended, but not permanently lifted, after a new prime minister takes office.

Haiti is also to receive development aid and technical assistance. This will primarily be aimed at administrative and judicial reform, modernizing the armed forces, and creating a new police force. As unspecified number of UN personnel would help implement this proposal.

Also among the proposals accepted by both sides was that United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) would organize, next month, a meeting among Haiti's political parties, unions and public personalities to discuss the details of the transitional period. Many other details and steps are yet to be sort out, although the core of the agreement is settled.



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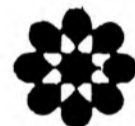
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# In Sanaa, Every Drop of Water ...

Sana'a - as many people will have noticed - is short of water. And what of the quality if the water we receive when - and it doesn't always happen these days - we turn on our taps and water gushes out? How much water is there, and how safe is it to drink?

The Sanaa Basin groundwater is being depleted at a fast rate, and replenishment is limited. The problem has been termed "critical" by many specialists.

Sanaa's groundwater collects in stratigraphic rock units, basalts, conglomerates and limestone, from the Jurassic, Cretaceous, Tertiary and Quaternary periods. Recharged by rain infiltration, these aquifers discharge into springs, wells and wadis.

The mean annual rainfall in the Sanaa area is around 250 mm. The bulk of this rain falls during the two wet seasons: March through May, and July through August. There is an average of 50 rainy days a year, and the maximum hourly rainfall is estimated at 50 mm. But most of this water is lost in evaporation. Rain falls in the hottest months, and moisture is rapidly absorbed into Sanaa's dry air.

The total annual evaporation is 2500 mm., and during

June alone evaporation once reached 312 mm. In other words, only a fraction of the water that pours down in a rainstorm reaches the aquifers underground.

There are just too many people in Sanaa using too much water, and that water is not being replenished. Less than three years ago the water table was 70 meters below ground. Now it is 450 meters, and experts predict that wells will shortly have to be dug to a depth of 600 meters before they reach water.

So much for quantity. What about quality? Landfill sites are a major potential source of pollution. The Al-Azraqain landfill on the Sanaa-Saadah Highway has received 300 to 350 tons of waste daily. Though liquid waste is reportedly inadmissible, solid waste is deposited in piles up to 15 meters thick. Rain water runs off the surrounding mountains through the landfill, and seeps into the groundwater aquifer through the rocks, which in this area are fractured and highly porous. It is no wonder that wells around Al-Azraqain are in imminent danger of pollution.

The area surrounding the Al-Thawrah industrial complex has also been monitored for possible pollution from its

chemicals, paints, detergents and plastics plants and its cooking-oil refinery. The well supplying the complex was found to be contaminated with bacteria, though fortunately not with chemical constituents.

A similar danger of pollution is posed by seepage from the sewage treatment ponds in Rawdah. Some wells near used or abandoned cesspits in the city itself have also been found to be contaminated.

A 1991 report on groundwater pollution in the Sanaa basin by Sanaa University's Center for Science and Technology and the Environmental Protection Council (EPC) concluded that some hazards, such as domestic wastewater, deserved immediate attention, while others, such as domestic solid waste and industrial liquid waste remain a threat for the future. The report recommended that the existing sewage network be expanded to include the entire city, and it called for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant. "More than two years later there are still no plans to expand the sewerage, or build the plant," explained Dr. A. A. Ba-Issa, Analytical Chemist, and one of the few experts in the field. The report had also rec-

ommended the enforcement of a strict monitoring program to eliminate irresponsible disposal practices and check on contamination levels. Nothing has been done on this count, either.

Water piped through the city is safe, for a while at least. But it is not plentiful. Domestic water usage has to be curbed.

Sana'a residents should be taught proper water use. In many instances, water flows from water-tanks, people leave taps running while they wash dishes, children clean family cars wastefully, trees and other garden plants are supplied with water from the tap, and modern toilet facilities are being increasingly used, though made for societies with an abundant water supply. Corrective steps in all these and other areas are imperative and should be addressed immediately. Even in countries which have a more abundant water supply, these practices have been discontinued or there are efforts to combat them.

In Yemen, the task is much easier because most of the people have grown up under conditions of water scarcities and should understand and respond to water-saving measures.

Another period of drought would bring a lot of hard-

ships for the country. It is therefore important to address these issues before the crisis comes.

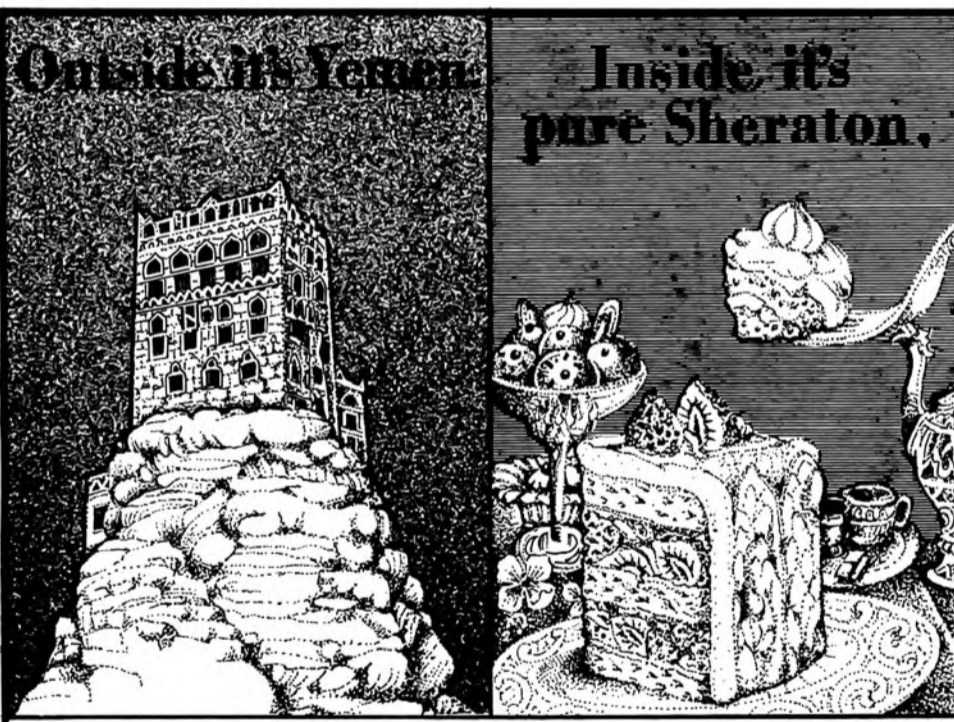
"It is unfortunate that our government and people only react to crisis," complained a senior official of the National Water And Sewage Authority (NWASA). "In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, we have proposed building several small cisterns and water-collection ponds. Yemen's terrain is excellent for such construction, and this will allow more water to seep through to the underground reservoirs. But there is no answer, and nobody cares until there is a crisis," he

complained.

The investments that are required to provide water to the residents of our urban centers, and especially Sanaa, are going to be enormous. "We have already depleted the shallow aquifers, and we are now drilling much deeper," said Mohammed Al-Fusayyel, the General Manager of NWASA. "Part of the reason is also the mad rush at water drilling. Nobody controls who drills for water and where to drill. I can tell you there are over 2000 wells in the Sanaa governorate alone," he pointed out. The EPC plans to update the 1991 report to monitor the change in pollution level, an

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## The Constitutional Amendments Round-Table Comes out with A Full-Fledged Plan to Mobilize Public Opinion on the Matter

On July 12th, the Yemen Times sponsored and organized a round-table for a small group of specialists. The theme of the 72 persons gathered at the Sheraton Hotel was the proposed constitutional amendments.

In his opening address, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf of the Yemen Times stated that there were some nine versions of the proposed amendments which are put forth by various groups and individuals. "We in the Yemen Times do not promote any of these versions at the expense of others, nor do we even support or oppose the introduction of the amendments themselves. Our main purpose is to mobilize public opinion regarding this vital matter so that the shaping of our coming constitution is not left to just a handful of men."

Dr. Abdo Hamood Al-Sherif of the Department of Political Science at Sanaa University made the first presentation. "This is a serious endeavor and we should not take it lightly. I do not even see the need for any amendments, let alone hasty ones, unless the whole purpose is to satisfy the ambitions of certain individuals and circles," he stated.

The political scientist of Sanaa University described

guiding soul of any civilized modern nation, and one that should not be tampered with at whim.

Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri, Chairman of Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen (League of Sons of Yemen) stated that his party favored the introduction of changes. "But we need to form a committee that includes everybody and discuss these changes. No party or group should be excluded from the consultations in this regard," he said. Most speakers agreed to amendments of some sort, and they stressed their main concern as the need for all parties or organizations to have a say in the process. The representatives of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Baath Party, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), Hizbul-Haq, the People's General Congress, the Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Ashaabi Annasser, among others, stressed this approach. Some did deviate from this general trend. They questioned the very purpose of the amendments, and why they were pressing. "We have to ask the authorities simply to adhere to and enforce the current laws and constitution. But given the lack of respect for any laws, and the general frustration and helplessness pervading our society, I would say we need a revolution, not the

amendments," stated Mr. Mohammed Naji Allaw, lawyer and parliamentarian. Sheikh Tareq Mohammed Abdullah, a prominent lawyer in Aden, echoed the need for changes in the constitution to lead towards a federated Yemen, thus giving more power to the local authorities. "We have to provide the constitutional and legal framework for a federal system," he stressed. Other speakers also stressed the need for a decentralized system in which citizens exercise more power over their lives. Dr. Abdullah Al-Thaifani, Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami and Hassan Mohammed Zaid all concurred that over-centralization has yielded an inefficient system.



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Dr. Abdul-Karim Aamer emphasized the economic aspects of the evolution. "Unless people can see progress at the economic level - in terms of employment, living standards, etc. - no political evolution will ever make sense. We can all discuss which comes first, economic or political change. I hope this does not become a chicken and egg situation. What I want to impress on you is the need for major economic changes. It is critical," he added.

Dr. Abdul-Hadi Al-Hamdani warned against role marginalization for those who oppose change. "We have to see the flow of the tide and try to work within it, not stand in its way. I am sure there is a lot more room for influencing the direction of the flow that way," he pointed out.

Ismail Al-Noaman gave a brief summary of the various amendment proposals, and added a few of his own.

Fares Al-Saqqaf expressed the intention of the Islah party to play the role of ruler and opposition at the same time. "We are part of the ruling coalition, and that is a fact. But, if our party sees somethings it does not agree with, it will work against it by playing the role of opposition," he indicated.

Dr. Yasseen Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati stressed one more time the need to mobilize the people so that their opinion becomes the guiding force in the amendments. "It is not logical for a small group of people in Sanaa to monopolize the right of shaping the constitution. It is also ridiculous to accept that the few men in parliament are the sole persons responsible for the re-writing of the constitution," he said.

Moqbil Haiderah of the Lawyers' Syndicate pointed out that the syndicate is going to plan several meetings and to offer its specialized views on the subject. "We take it upon ourselves to lead the dialogue on the amendments," he stated.

Dr. Abdulghani Qassim said he supported certain amendments, but that all versions and proposals should have equal access to the public and circulation in the media.

Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakkil briefed the audience on the efforts of the "Constitutional Amendments Committee" which is trying to raise con-

### Participants in the "Constitutional Amendments Round Table:

#### Members of Political Parties:

1. Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri - Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen
2. Mohammed Ali Thabet - Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen
3. Dr. Abdul-Hadi Al-Hamdani - People's General Congress
4. Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishari - People's General Congress
5. Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi - Yemeni Socialist Party
6. Fares Al-Saqqaf - Yemeni Congregation for Islah
7. Abdullah Al-Akwaa - Yemeni Congregation for Islah
8. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlaifi - Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Al-Shaabi Annaseri
9. Yahia Shujaa - Baath Arab Socialist Party
10. Radman Ali Hassan - Baath Arab Socialist Party
11. Mohammed Saleh Al-Arhabi - Federation of Islamic Revolutionary Forces
12. Noman Kaid Said - Attagammu Al-Wahdawi Al-Yemeni
13. Hassan Mohammed Zaid - Hizbul-Haq
14. Mohammed Al-Maqaaleh - Hizbul-Haq

#### Lawyers Group:

1. Sheikh Tareq Mohammed Abdullah,
2. Mohammed Naji Allaw - Member of Parliament
3. Ahmed Al-Kuhlani - Member of Parliament
4. Abdul-Ilah Al-Marwani
5. Moqbil Haiderah
6. Fathi Khaleel Mohammed - Head of Sudanese Lawyers Syndicate (at the moment visiting Yemen)

#### Members of Unions/Syndicates/Associations:

1. Dr. Abdullah Al-Thaifani - Syndicate of Educationists
2. Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami - Syndicate of Researchers and the Yemeni Center for Research and Studies
3. Dr. Ahmed Al-Kibsi - Yemeni Association for Political Scientists
4. Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakkil - Yemeni Organization for Defence of Rights and Liberties
5. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf - Yemen Economic Society
6. Dr. Abdulghani Qassim - The International Islamic Organization for Human Rights
7. Ahmed Al-Soufi - Syndicate of Yemeni Journalists

#### Other Public Figures:

1. Dr. Abdo Hamood Al-Sherif, Sanaa University
2. Dr. Abdul-Kareem Aamer, Sanaa University
3. Dr. Yasseen Abdul-Aleem, GM, Lepers Control Project
4. Dr. Maatooq Hassan Al-Ruaini, Ministry of Justice
5. Ismail Al-Noaman, Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources
6. Mohammed Aliu Abalan, Ministry of Civil Service

#### Embassies Attending:

1. The Netherlands,
2. Indonesia,
3. Republic of Korea,
4. Kuwait,
5. Sudan,
6. Russian Federation
7. France
8. Algeria

#### Newspapers Represented:

1. Yemen Times (independent - Sanaa)
2. Al-Jumhuriyah (official government - Taiz)
3. Al-Ummah (Hizbul-Haq mouthpiece - Sanaa)
4. Athawabit (PGC mouthpiece - Sanaa)
5. Al-Wahdawi (Al-Wahdawi Annasser mouthpiece - Sanaa)
6. Al-Mustaqbal (YSP affiliated - Sanaa)
7. Asharq Al-Awsat (foreign - London)
8. Attagammu (mouthpiece of Attagammu Al-Wahdawi Al-Yemeni - Aden)
9. Saut Al-Ummal (Workers' Union mouthpiece - Aden)

public awareness regarding the proposed amendments. "A group of persons - lawyers, parliamentarians, public figures, etc. - have come together voluntarily to work towards raising public awareness on the subject," he explained.

At the end of the dialogue, it was agreed that the Yemen Times will serve as the contact point for the efforts to mobilize more and more people to interact with the amendments in the way they feel appropriate. "The main point is that in a democracy, the interaction of the people

with the issues is a crucial component. We in Yemen Times shall sponsor and organize lectures in which the various proposals are to be discussed in great length and depth," explained Dr. Al-Saqqaf.

Other meetings will also be held in Aden, Taiz, and other cities.

"In short, we are trying to combat the marginalization efforts of the political leadership of the country. We want to have a say in where and how Yemen is evolving. That is the basic fight," Al-Saqqaf summed up.

❖ بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم ❖

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمَطْمَئِنَّةُ اِرْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي ﴾

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تتقدم

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المرحوم / محمد علي الربادي

والمرحوم / محمد علي هيثم

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيدين  
بواسع رحمته، وأن يلهم آلهم وذويهم الصبر والسلوان  
« وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون »



### A TASTE OF FREEDOM

One of the great crises of the Arab World has been the absence of democracy. Until recently most Arab countries had not tasted freedom, or even know the meaning of the word, governed as they were by oppression, despotism and dictatorship. Throughout their long periods of oppression the Arabs learned that the only weapon of resistance was silence. All the agony, despair and misfortune they suffered can surely be attributed to the lack of democracy. In a democracy, the ruler is responsible to the country for all he says, and all he does. He cannot escape the public, and cannot ignore what they might say about his wisdom, his intelligence, or his success as a political ruler.

Today it is unfortunate that Arabs are different, and far from an advantage. Arabs can achieve a good deal, but only in relation to other Arabs: their power only pertains to themselves. As for the joint enemy, they simply stand and watch him occupy their land as if it were none of their business.

What is important today is that Arabs understand their rulers want them to stand behind them in their endeavor, but they also want applause. It is also important to know that we all love the Arab peoples and all Moslems without discrimination, and that we shall not accept any harm befalling any of them.

**Abdu Hussein Ahmad,  
Al-Ayyam, Aden,  
7/7/1993.**

### THE LAST STAND

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, chief editor of the Yemen Times, is still facing a feverish campaign after publishing an article adhering to the reality of daily life in the democratic environment.

Instead of opening up a dialog over what he had written which, we believe, showed he wished to state the truth and open a debate on the subject, a number of newspapers started to criticize the professor in a tone that aroused tension and ridicule in the public media. One of those papers defined the professor as cunning, without even clarifying the foundation of its insult nor the truth behind his article. Another described him as an opportunist. A third referred to him as a mercenary. The fever even reached a point of threatening his life. God help the professor in what he faces up to these days, and help us all, for we are on but the first step of the path we call democracy. It seems that some have not grasped the reality of today, and are still living the style of yesterday.

**Abdullah Saeed Al-Shaibani,  
Al-Gadeed, Abyan,  
7/7/1993.**

### THE UTMOST OPTIMISM

People in our society have adapted to the poverty and despair imposed on them, but the limit of their ability to co-exist with rising prices, corruption, garbage and other problems is unknown. People still seem to hold an optimistic outlook towards the future.

The proclamation of the coalition government was really a call for optimism. It referred to the basic construction of an organizational instrument to

steer the activities of state and society.

Its efficiency is regarded as a crucial condition for activating the state's authority in all sectors. With this factor, the government will give priority to reforms dealing with the standard of living. The activation of laws and the confirmation of authority will lead to the achievement of more administrative control.

The whole program appears fantastic when put down on paper, but we can say we have a state of order, steered and governed by law, by discipline and by sovereignty. Let us be optimistic in our outlook and aspirations.

**Iskander Al-Asbahi,  
26 September, Sana'a,  
8/7/1993.**

### FOR CONTEMPLATION

While internal fighting in the Arab region escalates, we witness other world forces cooperating on how to confront international challenges, particularly what they all the Islamic challenge. It is also noticeable that striving for the cause has become a remarkable feature of internal relations in some countries, and even between some governments and opposition forces within a country, or among governments themselves. In such situations, governments find it impossible to maintain a strong position to deal with the vital tasks facing them. The challenges remain, affecting the countries' interest and stability. The Islamic evolution emerges in Moslem countries as one of the basic causes of difference.

Some Arab governments understand the phenomenon as sound, and try to live with it, or to absorb it. Others deal with it from a point of enmity, but such attitudes deepen the differences and lead to more violence and vengeance. The political Islamic view has lately aroused sensitivity among some governments. There is undoubtedly an outside influence playing a role in deepening the rift between these governments and the Islamic movements.

There should be points of understanding and reconciliation between these groups and their governments, well removed from political outbidding.

**Muhammad Aidh Abdullah  
Ahraee  
Al-Shoura, Sana'a,  
11/7/1993.**

### WOMEN AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY

Within our Moslem doctrine it is stipulated that a woman should fulfill certain requirements to prove herself. First, she should achieve the psychological stability necessary for her to be a good wife and mother to her husband and children, though it is important for a kind of joint equality to exist among family members. Second, a feeling of mutual love should flow among the members of the family, based on happiness and peace. Third in importance is grace, which is the foundation of our morality. Grace is not sympathy, but it stems from gentleness and from original morality and honor.

It is a woman's duty to devote herself to taking care of her

husband and bringing up her children within the morals of Islam. This brings us to a point concerning education and morality. Why have the women of our country begun to imitate Westerners in the way they bring up their children? It has become a tradition in some rich families to rely on Western kindergartens and non-Moslem servants and baby-sitters to look after their children. Such a change to dependence on foreigners for a moral education will reflect psychologically, socially and morally on their future, leading to a lack of sympathy, stability, grace, and the heavenly relations between children and parents. You are a Moslem, so what leads you to resort to the help of non-Moslem servants, baby-sitters or tutors? Our doctrine is based on simplicity, humbleness and charity. You are a Moslem, and your children ought to be tutored on the basis of Islam which is faith, worship of God, sympathy and responsibility. Some families even try to speak foreign languages with their children. Does this mean they despise the Arabic language?

It is a mother's duty to teach her children to be proud of their language and history. It is from this point that they will strive for progress and development. But blindly to imitate what is Western is wrong. Yemenis are well known for their wisdom, their morals, their knowledge and their literature. The woman is the foundation of future generations.

**Hind Al-Yamania  
Al-Haq, Sana'a,  
11/7/1993.**

### A WINDOW ON THE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

Excerpts from an interview between the TV announcer Fawzia Abd al-Kadir Ba-Sudan and Al-Mithaq.

Q: Would you kindly introduce yourself to the readers of Al-Mithaq?

A: Fawzia Ba-Sudan, a TV announcer on Channel 1. I am married with four sons and three daughters.

Q: How did you begin your career as an announcer?

A: Before beginning my career as an announcer I took part in preparing programs, but my colleagues encouraged me to go into the new job. I should like to thank everyone, especially Mr. Alawi Al-Saqqaf and Abd al-Rachman Thabet, for their encouragement and foresight.

Q: Do you prefer working as a news reader or variety announcer?

A: I contribute in variety programs as well as political, economic and news programs.

Q: Have there been any embarrassing situations during your career?

A: In 1988, while I was reading the evening news on Channel 2, something unexpected occurred in the studio. There was a movement and a sound, and as it increased I was haunted by fear. I looked up at the studio ceiling, and to my surprise I saw a number of mice emerge from inside the air-conditioning unit. I stopped for a few seconds, then went on.

Q: Have there been any impediments to your career?

A: I have not faced any impediments, and that is due to the prevalent spirit of cooperation and understanding.

Q: How do you see your career as mother and housewife? Does it affect your duties?

A: Undoubtedly, the role of mother is a basic one within the family circle, but the two roles coincide.

Q: Any last comment?

A: It is necessary for the announcer to possess a wide realm of information and culture, and he or she should be eloquent, have a capability for language, and be far from arrogant. One should have an independent personality, and the aspiration always to develop and learn from life's experiences.

**Al-Mithaq, Sana'a,  
12/7/1993.**

### CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

It is one of our duties to plan everything possible for our children, and our plans should include items that stand in defense of children's rights. A child has every right to enjoy his childhood, and to have plenty of gardens and playgrounds. Plans should not only be on paper. We must not forget that the child is the backbone of the future.

Initially, children need the minimum for natural enjoyment. It is their right to demand the necessities of accommodation, a pure water supply, nutrition, electricity, and playgrounds. Playing is, for children, as necessary as eating or drinking. It is a most desirable form of appetite, and they instinctively show their enjoyment in it. Such a right requires that all those concerned prepare suitable playgrounds for them.

Look at the houses and buildings that we see put up at random nowadays. Even some of the so-called investors in Aden took over playgrounds and put commercial buildings on the sites, without asking, or without paying any attention to the children, only thinking of availability and their own profit. Instead of planning to build new playgrounds in Aden, these inhumane people invaded and plundered without a care for children's rights. Is this not something we should think about?

**Alawi Abdullah Thabet,  
Almustaqbal, Sana'a,  
11/7/1993.**

### VICTORIOUS CORRUPTION

I tried to relax and give my pen a vacation before the formation of the new government, and until I got a clear vision of the situation. But after the election I, like many others, was deceived. It seems there is no use in saying anything, as the policy of compromise is still regarded as part of the game through the distribution and granting of posts and sums of money to satisfy one person, while depriving a thousand others. It is normal for the money spent on one individual to be taken from others, it is normal that the money is taken from the state budget, and even if those amounts are taken from party budgets the question remains, where did the parties get these amounts?

During the period of divisionism we blamed the Imam for all the chaos and corruption. Post-unification, we blamed the transitional period. What I expect in future is to blame the 'coalition period'.

When the nineteenth century American philosopher Henry Thoreau wrote about the civilian mutiny, he included the point that it was the duty of the government, before thinking of anything else, to establish a strong system based on democracy.

Substantially this means that under such a strong system, which should not discriminate between the rich or the poor, the strong or the weak, all the needs of the populace would be available. Under the umbrella of law and its sovereignty all would be satisfied, whether the situation were good or bad.

Frankly speaking, besides the government proclamation, we need a heavy stick with the words "Stop it!" carved on it to put a halt to compromise, the manipulation the general fund, the investment of hard currency outside the country, and other ills.

What is required is the state's respect, before any statements, planning, speeches, elections, and even before democracy. I believe there is no democracy at all with the absence of the sovereignty of the law. Before the provision of bread, we require the provision of safe laws.

It is worth mentioning that the humble citizens hoped to reform these issues after the election, and that aim pushed them towards the ballot boxes, but it seems the boxes were just boxes, put there to absorb their anger. No change has taken place, except for the division of the ruling system into three parts instead of two.

**Muhammad Qassim Al-Garmuzi,  
Al-Thawra, Sana'a,  
13/7/1993.**



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## QUALITY TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Things are in a tail spin round the globe - a world torn with strife and violence and people becoming slaves to arms, drugs and greed. Ethics and moral obligations have taken the back seat. Bringing up a child against the backdrop of such a dismal setting has placed inordinate demands on parenthood.

Thus to steer the child into adulthood, confident and well equipped to face the challenges and pitfalls of the years ahead, requires a great deal of understanding. Want of it can lead to a scuppered personality.

Catering only to the physical need of a child is now horse - and buggy. It is the emotional aspect which needs to be stressed, as there are no bad children but only bad homes. The family is considered the most instrumental agency in moulding the overall personality development and the mother is the nucleus here.

An innate bond exists between a mother and child as it was in the security of her womb in which he was nurtured. His thinking pattern is learnt at his mother's knees. It grows out of hundreds of cautions or encouragement, the negative statements or the positive ones and the attitude to life in general.

Yet it is not very uncommon to hear mothers label their children as 'problematic' from the word 'Go'!

Let the going get rough and the little one is made an easy target to let off steam. Agreed, that after a hard day's work and frayed nerves, it is not easy, especially if you are a working mum, to keep your cool when the child acts difficult. Your patience takes a nose-dive and you feel that you are going to go batty.

So what do you do? Ah, give him a good whacking or better still, lock him. This should settle him. But it doesn't. In fact, such a line of action will simply precipitate the total destruction of every thing good whacking or better still, lock him in the 100. This should settle him. But it doesn't. In fact, such a line of action will simply precipitate the total destruction of every thing good from his make-up. Besides, it is despicable! Instead, try to analyze the cause of his behavior. May be, he is yearning for some extra attention or show of love or he is feeling insecure or unwanted. Act with due tenderness.

We get perturbed when a child starts to lie or cheat or turns timid or aggressive, forgetting that he was not born thus. His interaction with people, his gospel of truth, honesty, care and share etc. are all an extension of what he observes

around him. Take this case in point. Trring! Ring! goes the telephone just when you are trying to tackle the seemingly endless weekly was load. It could be 'Sara that 'talk a mile' cousin of yours. You debate what to do and then decide that a little life of convenience won't harm. 'Ahmed run and get the telephone and if it is Aunt Sara, say I am not in. But you are very much in and Ahmed is totally floored. His parents keep drilling about not telling lies and here is Ma asking him to tell one? A very common slip on our part, little realizing its impact on the innocent mind. Many a times we take the line of least resistance, just to get him off our back. 'Do this' and I shall get you a new Barbie/Superman or stop crying and I will... and it goes on.

The child has brought home an assignment. It requires adult supervision or discussion, but where is the time?

The Mr. has gone to a business meeting and you have to prepare for tomorrow's dinner party. Leaving it undone means a ticking off from the teacher. No this won't do. So a senior sibling is called to make it a quickie. This not only robs a child of initiative but also takes away his sense of responsibility and fair play.

Isn't this what we call 'drag somebody up'? Doesn't a child who has placed his explicit faith in you deserve better than to be treated like an annoying gnat?

Then there are some fathers who, because of their high pressure jobs, do not have much time to give to their kids round the week. When their conscience stats to nag for this lapse, they whisk junior to the ice-cream parlour or to a fast food restaurant. While junior is licking his cone, the million dollar question that has been growing at his mind all morning, surfaces again. 'Dad, why do birds fly and we don't?' he asks. Yawn! Yawn! 'Son, not now. I am very tired,' and an inquiring mind is nipped in the bud. An expensive gift is bought to put your guilt to rest. Can such outings or gifts make the child associate parental love with material things. Not that a child should be deprived of such treats. But more important is taking out time in which you read together, lend an ear to his hatter, laud his achievements at school or satisfy his queries.

There is no parallel to it!

If parents take the responsibilities of parenthood with cheer and understanding the child basking in the warmth of their love will emerge a winner - oozing with healthy traits, ready to face the world, however mutilated.

## The Unfortunate Tests on Humans

Medical treatment has been deliberately withheld in New Zealand from more than 100 women suffering from cancer so as to enable doctors at the National Women's Hospital in Auckland to study the development of the disease. Worse still, this was done with the full knowledge of the hospital's ethics committee.

At least 26 patients have died as a result of what has become known as "the unfortunate experiment". It was conducted from 1966 to the early eighties, and none of the women was ever told that she had served as a human guinea pig. All were made to believe that they were given the conventional treatment.

A New Zealander, 46-year-old law and ethics lecturer at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Paul McNeill, has drawn attention to the scandal in a book, *The Ethics and politics of Human Experimentation*, just off the presses. He accused governments, scientists and even committees serving as ethics watchdogs of violating human rights and allowing experiments without the consent of the people involved. Some researchers, he said, had not shown the slightest compassion for the victims of their experiments.

McNeill criticized Australia for mustard gas tests conducted on some of its soldiers during World War II. Infantrymen kept in a chamber filled with the gas suffered burns and blisters and soon afterwards were made to take part in manoeuvres. This was so that defence scientists could monitor the effect the injuries might have had on their fighting ability.

Australia offended again and on a much larger scale when it allowed Britain to explode nine nuclear bombs and test hundreds of smaller atomic weapons between 1952 and 1963 in a south Australian desert area extending over 120 sq km. While no experiments on humans were intended, British and Australian soldiers as well as Australian Aborigines were exposed to nuclear radiation without any protection. Many contracted cancer as a result, others lost their eyesight. The test area, known as a Maralinga, is still contaminated by radiation.

According to the *New Scientist Magazine*, the Australian radiation laboratory claims that 10 times as much radioactive plutonium waste had been left in the desert than Britain admitted to the Australian government. This was deduced from declassified US documents on the joint US-British nuclear tests in the Nevada desert in the early 1960.

The Aborigines are not allowed into the area belonging to them until the surface soil has been removed. Britain still refuses to pay Australian government as well as the Aborigines compensation.

In the 1950s, the US air force gave Eskimos and Indians radioactive drugs to determine whether they helped them withstand severe cold and whether the treatment could enable soldiers to survive in the Arctic. The US Atomic Energy Commission, McNeill said in his book, released between 1963 and 1965 radioactive iodine in a series of experiments to determine its effects on humans.

In other tests, mentally handicapped children at New York's Willowbrook State School were deliberately infected with the hepatitis virus, while in Alabama the treatment of 400 blacks suffering from syphilis was disallowed by the authorities because of the need for data on the course of the disease.

McNeill considers Australia supplied a fair example of how ethics committees do their work and what they should beware of. The National Health and Medical Research Council, which advises the Australian government, this year funded 397 medical research projects involving humans. About 150 ethics committees are supposed to supervise the projects and to balance the interests of experts and their subjects.

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## CORRUPTION IN EDUCATION

Education is the sub-structure and the spine to any nation and society. Without education a society would not be refined or developed. When we discuss such theme, we have to make account for it, because it is one of the major fields which plays the main role in qualifying the society and the generations. I shall focus on some of the problems of corruption in education. The corruption lies first in the ministry itself and in its branches all over the governorates as well. In the ministry some of deputies and staff are fully incapable to be working in such field. They improve the occasion through their positions as general managers or heads of departments. Can you imagine such condition? Moreover, they make a mess of their jobs because that is not the suitable place for them. The merit system should be taken into consideration and we must as persons in charge decide the employment on its merit. Therefore, we demand the new minister to reconsider in some of the staff in education either they are

deputies, general managers, heads of departments or headmasters of schools. For that reason, I am going to shed the light upon some of the appointments of the managers and the other officials are not qualified or graduated from educational faculties, in addition, they have no connection with such posts. Certificates are being sold by dishonest persons who no doubt working in the Ministry of Education. Furthermore, there are appointees as headmasters in schools who are officers in the army. One of the strangest things is that some people to pay money in order to get appointed as headmasters in schools subsequently, they in return for would collect dirty money from students. Also, one of the problems of corruption in education is that fees of schools to whom it is payed and who is the one who benefits from these sums. Besides, there are employees under-age working in the ministry itself. Students in schools are being allowed to cheat by the help of headmasters and the supervisors. In addition, exams' papers are being sold and this has been

known until quite recently in some of the governorates. Do you think who is to be twisted? No doubt, the government represented by the Ministry of Education and the whole society as well. In my point of view, those careless persons have to be called off and to have a smart punishment. Also, we impeach the persons in charge in the government specifically, in the Ministry of Education for the shortcomings and carelessness. But, unfortunately, they are seemingly busy in their private interests and little things. I think, I am not the only one who is writing about the corruption in the education, but unluckily, there is no legitimate and eloquent response. On the contrary, the situation has become from bad to worse. There is a dangerous secret behind the fact of keeping silence by the silent partners, who have high positions either in the government or in the Ministry of Education. Such people can be called collusive. We, in fact urge the Minister of Education to kick those people out the educational work because they have gone beyond their limits. By the way, we would not prefer the minister to allow any one to interfere in his affairs and to welcome feedback from the managers around him and the public. Actually there are inadvertently persons encouraging corruption, but they have to learn that their cards and true colours would be revealed soon. In any case, consequences would be very dim for them. Besides what has been mentioned the Minister of Education himself should direct and supervise on everything taking place in all the branches of the ministry and not to pin his faith on any one as much as possible. Reports and documents in some cases are mendacious, therefore, those persons do not deserve to be relied on because the leaders of corruption. I hope that the Minister of Education would hang on my lips to say what is going on from some of the remiss employees who take no count of the rules or generalizations. Also, we undoubtedly will be hearing good news from the minister regarding the corruption and how to get rid of it, in addition, to the solutions. This will materialize by enforcing the decision and by penalizing wrong-doers and replacing them with more suitable persons. In the long as well as short runs, I can confidently say that the situation in education is entirely beyond redemption. The question now is, what are the methods and the tools to

solve this mess? And we have to know where the shoes fit? As a matter of fact, the corruption of the system stems essentially from mismanagement and malpractice. Despite the carelessness, all parties know the rules, but they ignore them deliberately. Loyalty to the profession has never been practised at all, therefore, all sides are demoralized. We still have the chance to do something as long as professional people like Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby are in charge. But they have to speak out and enforce their instructions and the laws. I will have some hope that the new minister will do his best and will bring practical solutions and to the problem. Above all, I hope he will bring some sense to our educational system.

By: Rassas M. Harara,

### Good Luck "Yemen Times"

I was deeply worried when I read your article "Yemen Times Subjected to Harassment." Please let me assure you that I sincerely and fervently wish and hope that the law-suite filed against your paper will find judges who adhere to law and order and will defend truth and freedom of the press despite possible pressure put on them "from above" or from any "other direction." May your paper remain a valiant voice and standard-bearer of freedom of the press, thus encouraging all publishers, and citizens as well, to keep fighting for democracy, its achievements and progress. Praying and keeping fingers crossed for you, I will follow anxiously the further development of your paper - and Yemen's - hopefully lucky destiny.

By: Ursula Schwendener,  
CH-7000 Chur,  
Switzerland.

## The Mistakes of Democracy, Do Not Justify a Military Coup

"The enemies of freedom do not argue, they shout and they shoot." William Ralph.

First of all, let me begin by stating that I believe in democracy, and I hate dictatorships. Always, civil governments represent democracy, and military regimes represent totalitarianism. I do not want to indulge in a comparison, but I do want to show what happens in the early days when either system comes to power. When military men succeed in seizing power, by force, the first decision is to freeze the constitution and declare martial law and a state of emergency. In short, they begin by terrorizing the people and by taking away all the rights of the citizens. On the other hand, when civilians come to power - either through the ballot, civil disobedience, etc., the first thing they try to do is bring law and order and restore civilian rights. Let me use the Sudan, my country, as an example. Two or more years ago, there was a military coup in the Sudan. A friend from abroad wrote to me asking my opinion of what was happening. I wrote back a short answer. The gist of what I said was this: "In a democracy, you could be starving, but you can run in the streets and shout that you are hungry. But in a dictatorship, even if you were starving, you are forced to say loudly that you have abundance of a lot of delicious food thanks to the wisdom and love of people by the wise rulers." In the Sudan, we have had - since independence in 1956 - a sustained exchange in rule by civilian and military men. Both systems have had their shares of mistakes. In my opinion, civilian rule is much superior, and its mistakes do not justify the military coups, which have been recurrent. In my opinion, there are five main factors for the failure of democracy and civilian rule. These are:

1. Democracy in the Sudan is built on a weak base - racial ties, tribal affiliation, and religious and sectarian organization. Such bonds make it difficult for new and modern relations (political parties, trade unions, associations, etc.) to grow because they cannot transcend the old ties. Thus, the political map of the Sudan has always led to internal strife that borders on civil war. The wrongdoers here are the leaders of the traditional centers of power, who want to continue to exert disproportionate influence in a changing world.
2. The second mistake of the Sudanese experiment with democracy is that it became a bird with one wing. Evolution of the system was limited to political change, whereas the economic needs of the people were neglected. Sick, unemployed and hungry voters cannot make an objective and correct decision. Freedom of choice cannot be maintained under a system whereby the economic well-being of the majority of the population is at risk.
3. The third mistake was the stratification of society in terms of interaction with the law. The law applied strictly to a certain class of people, and some groups have become above the law. Certain powerful elements were able to do whatever they wanted, and there was no way to hold them accountable to the law. A full and fair application of the law is a necessary prerequisite of democracy.
4. Sudanese democracy also suffered from the unfair and almost opportunistic exploitation of group bargaining. If you can mobilize a small group of people, you can fore any other party or group to succumb to your demands. This was true of irresponsible, random and repeated strikes. For example, what does it mean when the medical facilities are on strike, what does it mean when municipal authorities are on strike?
5. The main fault of our democratic experiment was that it was not truly a democracy - it was a facade of it, or at best the beginnings of it. We need to evolve the democratic system and hold on tightly to it. The above mistakes can be corrected, although it may take time. In the meanwhile, who will hold the restless soldiers in their barracks? It is a pity that Sudan, an early pioneer of democracy in the region, is reverting to dictatorship when the rest of the world is moving towards democracy.

By: A/T H. Ahmed,  
Sudanese in Yemen

## Personal View

### Change Has Come to Yemeni Agriculture

The majority of the Yemeni people are farmers or from farming families. Indeed, the largest employer of Yemeni labor, estimated at 40%, is the farming sector. Yet farming itself has undergone dramatic change over the years. In terms of farming methods and the equipment used, Yemeni farmers are gradually moving towards mechanization and modern systems. The various stages and processes of farming are partly or totally mechanized. Tractors and harvesters have now become part of the landscape in many parts of the country, although the traditional manpower and animal-power is still used extensively. In terms of input, the Yemen farmer has moved to using improved seed varieties which are resistant to drought and various pests. They also yield more. In addition, fertilizers are now in common use. In the high rainfall areas, such as Ibb, Haraz and others where rainfall is greater and the rainy season extends over several months, the farmers grow more than one crop per year. They of course, rotate the crops, although it is clear the farmers are moving to the high-yield cash crops. The farmers have also moved from the traditional cereals to growing vegetables and fruits. In my opinion, the Yemeni farmer - deemed to be the least educated and traditional segment of the Yemeni population - has shown great ability and flexibility in adapting to change. The Yemeni farmer has been receptive to new opportunities, and has been able to capitalize on them. It may be relevant to narrate an episode that actually sums up the whole change. About two years ago, I asked a farmer, my relative, about the type of wheat he was growing. "German wheat," he replied. "What about the famous 'Al-Bowni' wheat we inherited from our fathers?" I asked. "Oh that is still good, but the German variety yields more and it is resistant to pests. Only very few farmers grow the traditional wheat," he told me.

By: Saleh Al-Suraihi,  
Embassy of Yemen, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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**Prof. Abdulaiz Al-Saqqaf:**

# “Yemen needs politicians who are true to the ideals they propagate and accountable to the public.”

In more than one way, Professor of Finance and Money and Banking at the Department of Economics of Sanaa University, Dr. Abdulaiz Al-Saqqaf, has become the point-man of the opposition in Yemen. Supporters say he is the symbol of the nation's conscience and a strong check on corrupt rulers. Opponents say he is a regime hater who feels left out in the distribution of government posts. Whatever the case, Dr. Al-Saqqaf has become a focal point for working against the excesses of the ruling parties. This is no more evident than in his on-going trial. Yemen Times Political Editor, Dr. Ahmed Al-Madhagi talked to him and filed the following interview:

**Q: You are a key element in the opposition. What is opposition in Yemen and what are you trying to achieve?**

**A:** Yes, I have been labelled as part of the opposition. I honestly do not know what that means. All that I know is that I try to hold our politicians to the ideals they propagate. The country needs politicians who are true to their ideals, and who are accountable to the people.

There have been many times when I came out in favor of the ruling regime. But more often than not, I come out against the ruling group because there are just too many mistakes.

What we are trying to achieve is too much to talk about here. Let me give a few indicators.

At the economic level, we call for development through a free-market system that allows a fair distribution of income and wealth. What we have today is pre-capitalism where a small segment of the population exploits the large majority, and there is no way to control it.

At the political level, we call for a tolerant multi-party political system which is based on the virtues of the modern civilization. Human rights is a cornerstone of our system.

At the legal point of view, we want law and order to reign all over the country. The application must be fair and all-encompassing. Unfortunately today, the laws are selectively applied.

At the regional level, Yemen must come to terms with its neighbors, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Yemen cannot survive and prosper under conditions of animosity with its neighbors irrespective of who what is right.

At the international level, Yemen must play the role of a good citizen. We have to know our abilities, and use them optimally. Those are some of the ideas that come to my mind.

**Q: The National Conference - whatever happened to it?**

**A:** The National Conference (NC) was created as a broad-based opposition coalition. It faced many difficulties.

First, the rulers have constantly conspired to break-it up or at least weaken the association of the parties and syndicates represented in it. This is being done in spite of the repeated statements of the rulers that a strong opposition is good for Yemen. The rulers simply lie over and over on this point.

Second, most political parties are still unable to work together, even in the opposition. They have yet to learn to cooperate on an equal footing and coordinate their efforts along those lines.

Third, the opposition is not yet fully evolved, therefore, the NC parties do not have a fully worked out program. Therefore, their actions are actually a reaction to what the government does, or doesn't do.

In short, the NC is not dead, but it is in limbo.

**Q: Where do you stand on the constitutional amendments?**

**A:** The Yemen Times has recently organized a round-table on this subject, and all the major parties and syndicates have participated.

I personally think that the issue is not whether the present constitution is workable or not, but it is lack of respect for it. Even if we have the most beautiful constitution in the world, the political leadership simply does not want anything binding. I do not see why the constitution cannot be implemented today, even until the amendments are passed through.

The regime will have its amendments, no doubt, but it is going to be another blow to our institution-building and democratization process.

**Q: But there is genuine needs for amendments?**

**A:** I do not think so! There is genuine need for a truthful enforcement of the laws and constitution.

**Q: There is a law-suit filed against you by the General Prosecutor's office. What is the charge?**

**A:** Yes, there is a law-suit filed against me (and the Yemen Times) regarding an article I wrote in the Yemen Times. The first hearing was on Thursday, July 15th, at the South Sanaa District Court.

The charge is that I blasphemed against the president. The exact charge is that I "harshly criticized and belittled" the chairman of the presidential council."

What I said was that the president of the republic is not candid about fighting corruption in Yemen. In my opinion, he is the source of much of it. Added to that was also the charge that I said he bribes his men (in order to remain loyal to him).

That is basically the charge.

**Q: What triggered your article?**

**A:** One day, as I was relaxing in front of the TV, I heard President Saleh repeat that he will lead a campaign against corruption, misuse of public funds, etc.

At that time, there was a pile of papers in front of me regarding Sanaa University's unsuccessful efforts to protect its own campus against President Saleh's men who were steadily chopping it up. In the last instance, their actions was based on an order from the president himself.

I was just disgusted by the lies and phony appeals. Thus I wrote the article, and asked the president to use this example to show that he means what he says.

Ever since, I have been the target of many nasty jibes, threats over the phone, and of course, a law-suit.

**Q: What is the next step?**

**A:** I think that the judge as well as the lawyers say there is no case against me. I did not intend to insult any one, but the contrast between the reality of what is going on, and what the president says over the media is insulting to any Yemeni citizen.

I hope they react positively to constructive criticism, as the president repeats.



**Q: What are the main economic difficulties of Yemen, today?**

**A:** There are some outstanding issues. These are: First and foremost, the unemployment problem. Over 37% of the working age people who are looking for jobs cannot find them. This is a grave matter.

Second, there is the ever rising cost of living. The inflation rate is very high, in part associated with the fall in the value of the Riyal, and because a high proportion of our consumption and investment basket is imported.

Third, the bad distribution of income and wealth, and the devastating demonstration effect. The majority of Yemenis are poor, while a small group is extremely rich. The anger of the majority gets even worse when they see the palaces and luxury goods consumed by a parasitic small group.

**Q: How would you assess the economic contribution of the oil sector?**

**A:** Of course, it is hard to say exactly, but basically I think oil will be marginal to Yemen.

First, the quantities, whatever the officials and their newspapers say, are small.

Second, Yemen has a large population and an underdeveloped infrastructure and economy.

Third, we have been notoriously bad in managing our system and resources.

**Q: What is your overall assessment?**

**A:** I think there is a lot of room for improvement if this country were to get a better leadership, whether by improving the current politicians or by replacing them. The gap between the reality and the potential is large, and this is a source of frustration for many Yemenis.

I hope the older generation of officials gives way to new blood. Some of the officials have been at it for over three decades, it is as if there were no alternatives.

**Q: What is your overall assessment of the evolution of the political system?**

**A:** In my opinion, none of our present rulers believe in democracy, irrespective of what they say. Whatever level of tolerance there is, is there as a result of the checks and balances built into the system as a result of the co-habitation of the various political and military forces.

Therefore, the minute any side feels he (they) an dislodge the others, they will attempt to do so.

Democracy is not just elections, and at that partly fixed and influenced. Democracy means a system of checks and balances and avoidance of concentration of powers in one hand or one group. As an example, take powers of General Ali Abdullah Saleh. He is the Chairman of the Presidential Council (and shortly president of the republic), therefore, he is the boss of the executive branch of authority.

He is the commander-in-chief of the armed and security forces, therefore he controls the army, or at least a major part of it.

He is the Head of the Council of the Supreme Court, and thus wields considerable influence within the judiciary.

He is the boss of the People's General Congress and thus exercises disproportionate influence over the parliament. Many parliamentarians are told that they have won elections by money and influence the president provided, and they should, therefore, obey.

He has at least a dozen newspapers that work for him. Now, how can a democracy function when one man exercises this kind of disproportionate power?

**Q: What do you think the role of the foreign circles has been in our democratization process?**

**A:** I must say that the intentions may be good, but blessing of foreign circles to our experiment comes in light of what is happening elsewhere. This puts a limit or ceiling on how much progress we can achieve.

Our democratization process must be built by local efforts and they are. The foreign role is marginal, at best.

**Q: Let us go to economics. First, how do you see new investments coming?**

**A:** Unfortunately, Yemen's government is focusing on foreign investors, which is wrong. We should focus on Yemeni investors. I think the foreigners will take their cue from the locals.

New investments cannot be expected given the current mismanagement and corruption. We should improve the climate of law and order, as well.

The potential is very good, but the system is not there.

**Q: The continued deterioration in the value of the Riyal, what are the causes?**

**A:** There are many causes which are manifested in various ways. These include the budgetary deficit, the negative savings, and the deficit in the balance of payments.

In short, the Yemeni government and society are living beyond their means, and this must change if the Riyal is to preserve its value.

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The French Pages

HISTOIRE DE FRANCE

# 14 juillet 1789 la prise de la Bastille

Le 14 juillet est fête nationale en France. Depuis 1880, les Français célèbrent l'anniversaire de la prise de la Bastille, prison d'Etat, symbole de l'Ancien Régime. Nous rappelons ci-dessous les faits importants qui ont précédé cet événement marquant de la Révolution française. Nous publions aussi des extraits de la description de cette journée par le célèbre historien du XIXe siècle, Michelet, qui renouvela la façon de concevoir et d'écrire l'histoire. Pour Michelet, le peuple est le moteur de l'histoire, et l'histoire de France

est une longue lutte du peuple contre le despotisme. Sa vision lyrique des événements a été beaucoup critiquée par la suite.

" Le 13 juillet, Paris ne songeait qu'à se défendre. Le 14, il attaqua. Le 13 au soir, il y avait encore des doutes, et il n'y en eut plus le matin. Le soir était plein de trouble, de fureur désordonnée. Le matin fut lumineux et d'une sérénité terrible.

Une idée se leva sur Paris avec le jour, et tous virent la même lumière. Une lumière dans les esprits, et dans chaque coeur une voix: "Va, et tu prendras la Bastille!"

Cela était impossible, insensé, étrange à dire... Et tous le crurent néanmoins. Et cela se fit.

La Bastille, pour être une vieille forteresse, n'en était pas moins imprenable, à moins d'y mettre plusieurs jours, et beaucoup d'artillerie. (...)

L'attaque de la Bastille ne fut nullement raisonnable. Ce fut un acte de foi.

Personne ne proposa. Mais tous crurent et agirent. Le long des rues, des quais, des ponts, des boulevards, la foule cria à la foule: "A la Bastille! à la Bastille!..." Et, dans le tocsin qui sonnait, tous entendaient: "A la Bastille!" (...)

Le monde entier connaissait, haïssait la Bastille. Bastille, tyrannie, étaient, dans toutes les langues, deux mots synonymes. Toutes les nations, à la nouvelle de sa ruine, se crurent délivrées. (...)

Le matin même du

grand jour, le peuple n'avait pas d'armes encore. La poudre qu'il avait prise la veille à l'arsenal, et mise à l'Hôtel de Ville, lui fut lentement distribuée pendant la nuit par trois hommes seulement. La distribution ayant cessé un moment vers deux heures, la foule désespérée enfonça les portes du magasin à coups de marteau; chaque coup faisait feu sur les clous. (...)

La Bastille ne fut pas prise, il faut le dire, elle se livra. Sa mauvaise conscience la troubla, la rendit folle et lui fit perdre l'esprit. (...)

### La foule était enragée

La foule était enragée, aveugle, ivre de son danger même. Elle ne tua cependant qu'un seul homme dans la place, elle épargna ses ennemis les Suis-ses, qu'à leurs sarraux elle prenait pour des domestiques ou des prisonniers; elle blessa, maltraita ses amis les invalides. Elle aurait voulu pouvoir exterminer la Bastille; elle brisa à coups de pierres les deux esclaves du cadran; elle monta aux tours pour insulter les ca-nons; plusieurs s'en prenaient aux pierres, et s'ensanglantèrent les mains à les arracher. On alla vite aux cachots délivrer les prisonniers; deux étaient devenus fous. L'un, effarouché du bruit,

voulait se mettre en défense; il fut tout surpris quand ceux qui brisèrent sa porte se jetèrent dans ses bras en le mouillant de leurs larmes. Un autre, qui avait une barbe jusqu'à la

### Avant le 14 juillet

- 5 mai 1789: Les états généraux sont réunis après l'établissement, dans toute la France de cahiers de doléances. La bourgeoisie veut détruire les privilèges de l'aristocratie et obtenir l'égalité fiscale et politique dans une société sans ordres.

- 9 juillet 1789: Les états généraux se proclament Assemblée nationale constituante, après que de nombreux ecclésiastiques et nobles se soient ralliés à la cause du tiers état. Mais la nouvelle du renvoi de Necker par le roi Louis XVI suscite la colère du peuple de Paris qui craint par ailleurs un coup de force du roi contre l'Assemblée constituante.

- 14 juillet 1789: Les masses populaires se soulèvent et prennent la Bastille, symbole de l'absolutisme. Louis XVI rappelle alors Necker, reconnaît la souveraineté du peuple et adopte la cocarde tricolore. Dans les campagnes, on assiste à un début de révolution

FLEAU

"Pas d'invasion généralisée des criquets"

L'arrivée d'essaims de criquets pèlerins dans la péninsule arabique et dans la Corne de l'Afrique est toujours aussi inquiétante. "Il y a un développement du fléau, mais on ne peut pas encore parler d'invasion généralisée", a cependant estimé récemment à Rome Max de Montaigne un expert de la FAO (Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture). Mais, selon lui, "le risque potentiel est énorme".

"Le Yémen a un gros problème de criquets en ce moment mais les populations de criquets pèlerins sont assez mobiles, donc difficiles à évaluer", a-t-il ajouté.

L'Ethiopie, l'Erythrée, la Somalie et Djibouti sont aussi touchés. Depuis le 26 juin, des essaims sont entrés dans l'est du Tchad et il y a eu également un passage au Niger. Selon Max de Montaigne, une arrivée des criquets en Afrique du Nord n'est pas improbable.

Un porte-parole de la FAO a estimé que "le Yémen n'avait pas les mêmes moyens que l'Arabie Saoudite" pour régler ce problème. Une réunion de la FAO avec les pays donateurs doit avoir lieu ces jours-ci. Ils devraient discuter d'une coordination de l'aide sur cette

EN BREF

**Libération de deux Françaises arrêtées à Djibouti:** Le gouvernement djiboutien a libéré dimanche 11 juillet deux ressortissantes françaises, Hélène Ascoué (72 ans) et Dalila Assassi (26 ans), qui avaient été arrêtées avec des maquisards du FRUD (Front pour la restauration de l'unité et de la démocratie. Hélène Ascoué, présidente de l'Association de soutien au peuple afar, qu'elle a elle-même créée, apportait une assistance médicale aux civils et aux combattants du FRUD.

**Djibouti, l'opposition dénonce des rafles menées contre les réfugiés:** Le président du Front uni de l'opposition djiboutienne (FUOD), Mohamed Ahmed Issa, a accusé les forces gouvernementales djiboutiennes d'avoir mené vendredi 9 juillet des rafles dans la ville de Djibouti contre les réfugiés somaliens et éthiopiens, destinés au "recrutement et à l'embrigadement forcé" de ces derniers dans l'armée. Selon lui, ces rafles auraient aussi pour but de repeupler les villages du district de Tadjourah vidés de leur

population, à la suite de l'offensive lancée par l'armée djiboutienne contre les positions des maquisards du FRUD.

**Somalie, quatre journalistes tués à Mogadiscio:** Deux photographes, un Allemand travaillant pour l'agence américaine Associated Press et un Anglais de l'agence britannique Reuters, ont été tués lundi 12 juillet à Mogadiscio en Somalie. Deux autres journalistes de l'agence Reuters sont "présumés morts". Les quatre journalistes ont été tués après l'attaque des hélicoptères américains de

Le "Yemen Times" a affaire avec la justice. Le procès du journal a commencé jeudi 15 juillet. L'objet du délit est un article écrit par le Dr Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf dans les pages anglaises où il dénonçait la corruption du Président Ali Abdallah Saleh. Le procès devrait durer plusieurs jours.

EMIGRATION

## Terre promise pour les juifs yéménites

Plus de 200 juifs du Yémen sont arrivés "secrètement" en Israël depuis un an.. Leur intégration risque de poser des problèmes.

246 juifs yéménites sont arrivés "secrètement" en Israël au cours des douze derniers mois. C'est ce qu'a révélé mercredi 14 juillet le directeur du département de l'immigration de l'Agence juive, Ouri Gordon. La censure militaire israélienne avait jusqu'à présent imposé le black-out sur les détails de l'opération, les informations sur l'immigration de juifs en provenance d'un pays officiellement en guerre avec Israël relevant du secret militaire. L'an dernier, le ministre de l'Intégration de l'époque, Yitzhak Peretz, avait révélé qu'Israël oeuvrait en secret pour organiser l'immigration des derniers 1500 juifs vivant au Yémen. 57 juifs du Yémen ont

immigré en Israël en 1992 (38 en août et 19 en novembre). Cette année, ils ont été 189 à partir pour la Terre Promise. Parmi les 246 nouveaux immigrants, répartis en 40 familles, 155 ont été placés dans le centre d'intégration de Rehovot, et les autres dans celui d'Ashkelon.

L'opération a été lancée en août 1992 et elle se poursuit ces jours-ci. Les juifs arrivent au compte goutte, en famille en transitant par une capitale européenne.

### Des juifs très religieux

Ces juifs yéménites sont très religieux et ont jalousement préservé leurs

traditions. La plupart sont des orfèvres et des bijoutiers. Les femmes portent des robes bariolées sur des pantalons, et les hommes, coiffés de longues cadennettes enroulées sous une kippa, portent le vêtement rituel.

Ils parlent un hébreu biblique avec un accent prononcé. Leur intégration risque de poser des problèmes, en raison de la fréquence de la bigamie et des mariages d'enfants.

Un millier de juifs vivent encore au Yémen, où ils ne souffrent pas de discrimination de la part des autorités.

La "Loi du retour" israélienne, adoptée en 1950, stipule que tous les juifs peuvent s'installer en Israël et y

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# Recycler les bouteilles en plastique

par Guido Ast \* (avec la collaboration du Poste d'expansion économique de l'ambassade de France)

Les Yéménites jettent chaque jour 500 000 bouteilles en plastique. La protection de leur environnement n'est pas le premier de leurs soucis. Pourtant ces bouteilles pourraient être recyclées. Reste à organiser le recyclage.

500 000 bouteilles en plastique sont rejetées chaque jour dans la nature au Yémen. Avec la plus totale négligence. Elles pourraient être recyclées si une action adéquate est menée.

Mais quelle pourrait être la solution? Les producteurs d'eau mini-érale réalisent, apparemment de confortables profits avec une production quotidienne d'un demi million de bouteilles en plastique. De l'eau propre, aisément accessible pour ceux qui peuvent payer!

D'autre part, les bouteilles en plastique, faciles à transporter à la maison dans des cartons, sont chacune enveloppée dans un sac plastique. Ceux qui se rendent à une partie de qat tiennent à ne pas arriver les mains vides! Avec une botte de qat enveloppée dans un plastique, un sac plastique contenant des bouteilles d'eau en plastique et

des paquets de cigarettes, ils sont sûrs de faire impression sur leurs amis.

Ce qui a belle allure quand ils entrent dans le maffraj devient un gros tas d'ordures quand ils s'en vont. La maîtresse de maison a le plaisir de nettoyer les restes des réjouissances et de les jeter dans la rue, derrière la maison, là où elle trouve de la place! Ce qui arrive après à ce tas d'ordures, personne ne s'en soucie!

## La beauté du Yémen est abîmée

Quels sont les coupables de tels dégâts pour l'environnement? Les producteurs de bouteilles en plastique ou ceux qui en autorisent la production? Les bénéficiaires pour la santé d'une eau propre sont-ils plus importants que les dégâts

causés à l'environnement? Les compagnies étrangères qui ont appris aux compagnies yéménites à travailler dans ce secteur sont-elles à blâmer? Ou bien est-ce le gouvernement qui ne semble pas s'inquiéter, ou les villes qui ne s'attaquent pas au problème de la destruction des déchets? Ou enfin le consommateur qui jete ses ordures?

On peut se poser de nombreux questions et beaucoup discuter. Il reste que quelque chose doit être fait! La beauté du Yémen souffre et les dégâts à long terme sont évidents. La première impression de celui qui visite le Yémen sont les rues remplies de plastiques, les arbres et arbustes habillés de plastiques sales et les tas d'ordures. La beauté architecturale des maisons et des villes déjà abîmée par les câbles de téléphone, les fils électriques, le réseau d'égoûts, les antennes de télévision et les antennes paraboliques, est en plus endommagée par des piles de plastiques dans les rues, les jardins et autour des maisons.

L'autre problème est que la plupart de l'eau mise dans ces bouteilles vient des quelques puits de la région de Sanaa où le manque d'eau domine. Des puits creusés profondément contribuent chaque jour à l'abaissement du niveau de la nappe phréatique. Cette eau mise en bouteille est ensuite transportée en camion jusqu'à des régions comme celle de Ibb, où l'eau coule en abondance! Une telle contradiction ne peut pas être tolérée plus longtemps!

## Un rabais d'un rial

Personne ne voit les ordures et personne ne veut payer pour leur destruction. Le principal problème de la destruction des ordures municipales est de trouver un endroit qui ne gêne personne, qui est sûr du point de vue de l'environnement et pas trop éloigné en raison des coûts de transport. Il faudrait aussi faire payer les citoyens pour la destruction des ordures qu'ils produisent.

Mais que peut-on faire pour réduire le mal? Une solution est d'utiliser des bouteilles en verre, comme pour beaucoup de boissons que l'on trouve sur le marché. Certains font remarquer que la production de verre et le nettoyage des bouteilles vides est aussi dommageable à l'environnement que les plastiques.

Une autre solution pourrait être le recyclage: produire de nouvelles bouteilles ou des produits dérivés (tuyaux d'irrigation ou d'égoûts, bâches en plastique destinées à l'agriculture, poubelles, chaussures ou de nombreux autres produits).

Mais comment pourrait être organisé ce recyclage? Faut-il faire appel au gouvernement ou aux municipalités qui sont déjà surchargés et incapables d'organiser de nombreux services qu'ils sont censés fournir aux citoyens, tels que l'eau courante, les égoûts, le ramassage d'ordures et le nettoyage des rues, pour ne parler que des plus évidents? Ou bien des compagnies privées pourraient-elles organiser le ramassage des bouteilles en plastique et les recycler en réalisant des bénéfices?

La seconde solution semble la plus prometteuse. Le recyclage peut être une affaire

rentable. C'est l'idée qui ressort d'un article récemment publié dans un journal (European Plastic News, Février 1993, page 37), intitulé "Recyclage et profit". Il raconte l'histoire d'une compagnie belge très active dans le secteur du recyclage depuis 1981. Cette firme a connu une croissance rapide pour atteindre une capacité actuelle de 25 000 tonnes de matières plastiques recyclées par an.

Selon le directeur de cette entreprise le ramassage séparé des différents types de plastiques est la seule façon de rendre rentable le recyclage.

Pour le Yémen, il apparaît que le système le moins coûteux de ramassage des bouteilles vides serait d'utiliser le réseau de distribution. Actuellement, les bouteilles sont apportées dans des cartons aux détaillants. Ils les vendent aussi bien par cartons qu'à l'unité. Les camions reviennent vides à l'usine, alors que le coût de chargement et de déchargement des bouteilles vides serait faible, comme pour les bouteilles en verre!

Mais comment convaincre le détaillant et le consommateur de rapporter les bouteilles vides? Il faut des incitations. Cela ne peut être qu'un rabais sur chaque nouvelle bouteille achetée pour une vide ramenée. Pourquoi pas un rabais d'un rial?

Comment cela peut-il être financé? Une manière simple de financement serait de supprimer les étiquettes en couleur collées sur les

bouteilles. Ces étiquettes sont un obstacle au recyclage! Le nom des marques imprimé pourrait aussi bien être moulé dans le plastique. Rappelons aussi que les étiquettes coûtent cher. D'autre part, le consommateur s'intéresse assez peu à la marque qu'il achète. L'économie faite sur les étiquettes pourrait déjà payer une partie non négligeable du coût du recyclage.

Le recyclage n'est pas tout à fait nouveau au Yémen. Un récent rapport sur la destruction des ordures au Yémen réalisé pour la Banque mondiale fait la liste de toute une série de compagnies qui recyclent. Pourquoi cela ne serait-il appliqué à ces monceaux de bouteilles en plastiques?

## La "carotte et le bâton"

L'auteur du rapport a demandé au Poste d'expansion économique de l'ambassade de France à Sanaa, s'il pouvait identifier en France (le pays d'origine des eaux de Vittel et d'Evian. D'ailleurs SPERE EVIAN FRANCE est mentionnée sur l'un des marques yéménites en tant que compagnie chargée de superviser la mise en bouteille et les aspects techniques) les compagnies qui sont intéressées par le recyclage des bouteilles. Sur huit compagnies contactées, quatre ont montré leur intérêt dans ce domaine. Cela doit être fait auprès des compagnies yéménites.

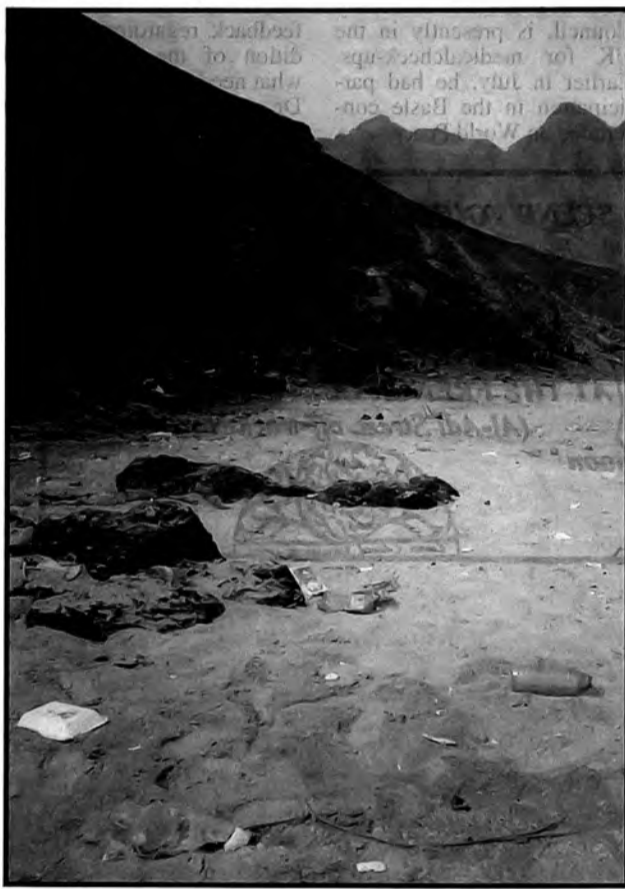
Il se peut qu'un peu de pression de la part du gouvernement et des

municipalités soit nécessaire pour pousser les producteurs à s'engager dans le recyclage. Il n'y a pas de parti écologiste jusqu'à présent au Yémen et les partis existant ne semblent avoir mis les problèmes de l'environnement en tête de leur agenda. Il n'espèrent sans doute pas s'attirer des électeurs dans un pays où les questions d'environnement intéressent peu de monde.

Le gouvernement pourrait mettre en place une politique de la "carotte et du bâton". Des prêts à faible taux d'intérêts pourraient être accordés, avec notamment une aide des organisations internationales, qui pour la plupart soutiennent des projets de défense de l'environnement.

Pour ceux qui ne craignent pas la politique du bâton: limiter les licences, créer une taxe gouvernementale sur le recyclage, limiter les quantités d'eau produites, donner des amendes aux consommateurs qui jettent leurs bouteilles dans la rue. Tout cela peut servir à convaincre. D'une manière ou d'une autre, le problème doit être réglé. Rappelez-vous. Un demi million de bouteilles en plastique sont jetées chaque jour dans l'environnement yéménite. Et ce n'est pas tout. Il y a aussi les sacs plastiques, les huiles usagées, les égoûts, les épaves de voitures, les pesticides et les fertilisants, qui abîment chaque jour l'environnement. Il est temps de s'attaquer au problème!

\* Guido Ast est le coordonnateur de l'assistance allemande à la planification urbaine - GTZ - à Sanaa.



Des bouteilles en plastique échouées sur une plage d'Aden.

## POLITIQUE

# Décès d'un ministre

Mohammed Haitham est mort le 9 juillet dernier d'une crise cardiaque. Il était ministre des Affaires sociales et du Travail.

Mohammed Ali Haitham é-tait âgé de 53 ans. Vendredi 9 juillet, il est décédé suite à une crise cardiaque. Terrassé par une attaque jeudi à son bureau, il a été transféré dans un hôpital de la capitale, où il n'a pas survécu.

## Ancien Premier ministre

Le ministre des Affaires sociales et du Travail dans le nouveau gouvernement Al-Attas, formé après les élections législatives d'avril, était un membre de la direction du CPG (Congrès Populaire Général), le parti du Président

Saleh. Originaire de l'ancien Yémen du Sud, Mohammed Haitham a été pendant longtemps un membre actif du PSY (Parti Socialiste Yéménite), le parti au pouvoir à Aden. De 1967 à 1969, il a occupé le poste de ministre de l'Intérieur dans le premier gouvernement sud-yéménite après l'indépendance.

De 1969 à 1972, il a été Premier ministre du Yémen du Sud, avant de s'exiler au Caire, à la suite d'un différend. Il était rentré d'exil au Yémen du Nord au début des années 1980 et avait rejoint le CPG.



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الحديدة ت: ٣/٢٢٢٤٦٠ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦  
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تليكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠



# NEWS MAKERS

Compiled by: Al-Izzi As-Selwi

**\* Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman:**  
Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman, the Head of the Secretariat of the Yemeni Socialist Party, has been in bed for one week now. He suffers from a disk problem on his lower back, which has created muscle strain on his right thigh. The doctors say although the problem is not very serious, he is going to remain in bed for at least two more weeks.

**\* Dr. Salem Banajeh:**  
Dr. Salem M. Banajeh has taken over last week as General Manager of the As-Sabeen Hospital in Sanaa. Banajeh, a pediatrician, has done his studies in the United Kingdom. He used to practise in Kuwait, which he was forced to flee because of the Iraqi invasion. The appointment of Banajeh comes within the framework of the new Health Minister's efforts to bring new blood to the management of government hospitals.

**Ahmed Al-Mohanni:**  
Mr. Ahmed Al-Mohanni, Chairman of the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development (YBRD), returned last week following his participation in the UBAF meetings. It is known that the YBRD is a shareholder in UBAF.

**\* Amin Qassim Sultan:**  
Sheikh Amin Qassim Sultan is spending these days in the Commercial and Economic capital, Aden. The purpose - to regain ownership of a lot of prime real estate which had been confiscated under the pre-unity government in the former PDRY. He says he is also studying the potential for investment in the Aden Free Zone.

**\* Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri:**  
Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri, Chairman of the League of the Sons of Yemen Party, invited last week over a thousand persons to the marriage ceremony of his daughter,..... Parliamentarians, ministers, senior military officers, sheikhs, members of the Arab diplomatic corps, businessmen and academicians were among the attendants. The groom, Alawi Hassan Al-Jifri, is a young man who is doing undergraduate studies in computer science in Oklahoma.

**\* Ahmed M. Luqman:**  
The name of Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Luqman is being circulated strongly to succeed the late Mr. Mohammed Ali Haitham to the post of Minister of Pensions and Social Security. Luqman had occupied this post prior to his replacement by Haitham in the post-election government of Mr. Al-Attas. Both men are PGC members, and the post is assigned to the PGC party within the distribution of cabinet portfolios in the present coalition government.

**\* Ali Bin Ali Al-Mufzir:**  
Mr. Ali Bin Ali Al-Mufzir, has completed construction of his cooking gas bottling plant at Al-Jadr, some ten kilometers outside of Sanaa. The plant is expected to be officially inaugurated in the coming few days. This is one of half a dozen plants constructed by the private sector all over the country. The energy sector has seen increasing private involvement, thus replacing the government.

**\* Jamal Al-Mutarreb:**  
The young and ambitious entrepreneur, Jamal Al-Mutarreb is branching out to new business. He has just acquired new showrooms to display the merchandise he is importing. The most recent showroom is at 79 Haddah Street, just across from the Yemenia Office. The "Al-Mutarreb" enterprises will provide new services. "We will push personal relations and tailor-made services," he said. The showroom to be formally opened in a few weeks, will offer household appliances, electric gadgets, and other goods.

**\* Mohammed Mubarak Adhban:**  
Al-Haj Mohammed Mubarak Adhban, Chairman of the Adhban Group said that the national capital is still cautious regarding investing in Yemen because of the many uncertainties and risks apparent to everybody. "If we sort these things out, then everybody, including our group, will lead the way for new investments," he said. He also indicated that the foreigners follow the locals. "Foreign investors take their cue from us. If we go ahead, they join us," he said.

**\* Ali Ahmed Abu Taleb:**  
Co. Ali Ahmed Abu Taleb, General Manager of the Sanaa Passports Department, has been able to re-structure his department and the services it offers. Many citizens and foreigners who need the immigration and passport services say they have noticed the difference. He has the support of Interior Minister Yahia Al-Mutawkkil

**\* Sameer A. Mutahhar:**  
The young Sameer Abdul-Samad Mutahhar has broken off from his father's business empire, and started his own. His small, yet dynamic, office specializes in shipping, air and marine cargo, as well as customs clearance services.

**\* Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shabibi:**  
A presidential decree is imminent appointing Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shabibi as Secretary-General of the Council for Immigrant Affairs. The Prime Minister's office has approved a blue-print which will bring together all parties concerned with the affairs of immigrants. In the last government, a ministry was charged with the affairs of immigrants.

**\* Khaled Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan:**  
Following the collapse of the partnerships in the Jamaan Group of Companies, young Khaled Mohammed Jumaan is beginning to carve out his way independently. His new company is already making itself felt in the Sanaa business community.

**\* Ameen A. Al-Wusabi:**  
Mr. Ameen Abdul-Salam Al-Wusabi, Chief Editor of Bilqis magazine, published in Cyprus, is in Yemen studying the possibility of its local publication. Mr. Al-Wusabi is a Yemeni journalist well-known for his work in Saudi Arabia.

**\* Dr. Hassan Makki:**  
Dr. Hassan Mohammed Makki, First Deputy Prime Minister, leaves here on Tuesday, July 20th, on a private tour of European countries for medical check-ups.


**\* Sha'afal Omer:**  
Mr. Sha'afal Omer, the Deputy Chairman of the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council, is presently in the UK for medical check-ups. Earlier in July, he had participation in the Basle conference on World Peace.

**\* Mohammed Al-Ghashm:**  
Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghashm, General Manager of the Plant Protection General Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, says that the on-going spraying of pesticide has already shown good results in combatting the locust problem. Locusts infested much of Yemen bordering on the Empty Quarter. Mr. Keith Cressman, the FAO person summoned to help with the locusts, said that the helicopters were on site - one based at Ataq, Shabwah, and the other at Al-Hazm, Al-Jawf. He warned that the locusts will be mature enough to breed again in another two weeks, "The idea is to get them before then," he stated. He sadly added, however, "I am afraid we will not be able to get them all."

**\* Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby:**  
Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education, has summoned the principals of all the government schools in Sanaa city for consultations. In the 15th July get-together, the minister asked for feedback regarding the condition of the schools, and what needs to be done. Dr. Al-Qirby is addressing the education issues headon.


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# Kansas

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Yemeni Children at Risk:

# RADDA BARNEN'S CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE

By: Yemen Times staff.

Rädda Barnen, the Swedish Save the Children organization, is represented in Sana'a by a full complement of Yemeni staff and four Swedes, headed by Yemen representative Steffan Engblom. The Program Director and his deputy is his wife Birgitta. "We are not a charity in the normal way," says Steffan Engblom. "We follow the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is fundamental to the work of Rädda Barnen. Our aim is to ensure that all children have the right to live and grow up as free, healthy, and independent individuals, and to enjoy inviolable human dignity. We focus in our services on the most vulnerable children groups and we stand on the side of children against war, racism and violence."

The non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian movement was founded in 1919 in neutral Sweden to aid children who had fallen victim to the turmoil left by the First World War in Europe. Between the wars, the group concentrated on assisting Swedish children, but in the 1950s it went abroad again - to the Netherlands, where flooding had brought disaster, and to Hungary in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion. During the 1960s, it extended its horizons to the developing countries. It started with Morocco, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the former Yemen Arab Republic (today Republic of Yemen).

The organization is generously financed in Sweden by small monthly deductions from the salaries of 200,000 donors, as well as from fundraising in 300 Swedish branches. About a third of its budget is still rechanneled

within Sweden; the rest is directed to ten overseas offices running projects in thirty countries, from Bangladesh to Guinea Bissau, and from Vietnam to Peru. New projects have started up in the Baltic States and Rumania. Rädda Barnen adapts to local needs, but always targets the children most at risk. In Sweden these are young delinquents, abused children calling for help on 'Childline', and, most tragic of all, children from the former Yugoslavia and the Horn of Africa - children who are not run of the mill refugees, but are severely traumatized after enduring unbearable distress. In Rumania its main target is AIDS babies, in South America it is street children. The Sana'a office comes under Rädda Barnen's Africa region, and is linked to Asmara, Addis Ababa and Khartoum. There is a broad mandate for the group in Yemen, but most of its work is in the health sector. It set up here shortly after the 1962

Revolution with a vaccination program in Taiz. It still cooperates actively in the Yemeni government's primary health care program, and is specifically involved in the community-based rehabilitation of disabled children in the rural surroundings of Taiz and Lahej. For the time being this work is concentrated to these rural areas. "In cities there is always some care available, though this is largely institutional, and it is best to avoid institutions. But in rural areas there is nothing," says Steffan Engblom. The rehabilitation program involves the training of social workers, health care workers and teachers to monitor disabled children at home.

Rädda Barnen is active in the care of Somali refugees, where it runs the educational program in the large camp run by UNHCR at al-Kawd in Abyan governorate. The school caters to about 3,000 boys and girls, Muslims and Christians, with Somali staff and a Somali curriculum to prepare the children for their eventual return home. Rädda Barnen has been able to have text books reprinted in Kenya. Here at al-Kawd children from war-torn Somalia have a chance to catch up on missed schooling, and fourteen or fifteen year olds often find themselves in Grade II. The emphasis is on primary and intermediate levels: older children, whose education has usually been severely disrupted, are unfor-

cases the children don't even know why they are there," says Mr. Engblom.

Rädda Barnen is working together with the Yemeni authorities to help rehabilitate imprisoned delinquents, who are generally school drop-outs from lower socio-economic groups or broken homes. The increasing number of children begging on the street corners of Yemen's cities also falls under Rädda Barnen's concern. Steffan Engblom says his office will consider participating in local projects provided they have a pronounced child orientation, are democratic in decision-making and administrative processes, take the views of children into consideration, and as long as, in the long run, they strengthen the rights of the child. Towards that end, Rädda Barnen has joined other donors, in co-financing and implementing a study on the "Status of the Yemeni Child" carried out by the Yemen Times.

Although Rädda Barnen is assisted to some extent by the Swedish International Development Authority, Sweden's overseas aid organization, it tries to be financially independent. It also tries to find funds for slightly esoteric, if essential projects - building children's playgrounds in Aden is one of them. It has also been running a scholarship program to fund the training of medical staff abroad, mainly in Cairo, though this program is almost



tunately forced to forgo further education. But at least the younger ones are given a good grounding in the basics.

The group runs a similar program at al-Basateen, the shanty town near Aden which is home to 36,000 returnees from Somalia, but of Yemeni origin. Here the Arabic curriculum is handled by Yemeni staff.

Rädda Barnen also runs a "Rights of the Child" program to promote the UN children's charter in Yemen through the media, posters, calendars, and public awareness. It is on the brink of signing an agreement with Yemeni TV to make a series of short programs to alert public attention to children's rights, a concept perhaps too basic to be readily recognized. One of its main, and saddest, areas of concern is the plight of children in prison. There are estimated to be more than five hundred children in prisons throughout Yemen: some are imprisoned with their mothers, others are young offenders. "In certain

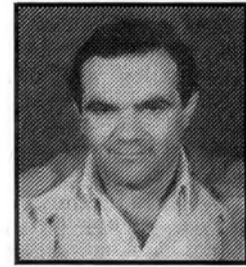
complete and is to be phased out within the next two years.

"We aim to support local organizations, especially Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in their work, without taking over their role," says Steffan. "We want to raise the awareness of the plight of children through public opinion." Rädda Barnen keeps a low profile, in spite of its long and extensive services. Yet the Yemeni people, especially in the region of Taiz, are quite well aware of its constructive role and fruitful efforts, which are "much appreciated by the local population."

"We are happy with our association with Yemen, and the contribution we are making to Yemeni children," said Mr. Engblom. "In spite of some frustrations here and there, we are, in general, happy with the progress that Yemen children have achieved over the last few years. We feel a lot more could be done, and we are here to assist in achieving this goal," Steffan concluded.

# MONOPOLY OF THE TRUTH: Muslims versus the West

By: Saad Salah Khalis, Cultural Editor, Yemen Times.



Roger Garaudy is one of those thinkers who inspire controversy wherever they go. His rich intellectual and cultural heritage is always a strong point in his views and philosophy - so is his courage in openly and freely changing ideologies.

Garaudy's search for a meaning in life has taken him to many places. Born into a Christian family, he was, at one stage, a devoted marxist. Disenchanted, and after a long search for true meaning, he was converted to Islam in 1983. He found that it was "the correct path."

Roger has prophesied the collapse of the western civilization, given its many contradictions and weaknesses.

Garaudy has never felt regret for his Marxist past, although his dreams began to vanish from Budapest to Prague (in reference to the Soviet invasions of 1956 and 1968) as per his own words. His objection and condemnation to such policies caused dismissal from the French Communist Party, of which he was a member at the Politbureau and Central Committee levels.

Yemen Times has already reviewed his book on fundamentalism a few weeks ago, but the ideas he expressed during his recent visit to Cairo are of interest as they bear a certain concept of Islam as a way of life, in the time whenever gangsters utilize its slogans as a licence to kill.

I try here to collect the core of the various meetings and symposia Garaudy has held to put in front of the eyes of all leaders to contemplate and to discuss, and then to review their preconceptions and ideologies, and decide whether pluralism and co-existence is in hand in this age where brainwashing terms such as globalization and universalism overwhelm our psyche.

To his interviewer of "Adab wa Naqd" magazine, Garaudy talked about Islam being his latest option, saying: "There is no absolute truth other than the religious truth. All other forms of truth are relative." Yet he insists that by becoming a Muslim, he never put Christianity and Marxism away. He wants to keep being all the three together. He thinks of Islam as a continuation of an original, premium religion that started from the day of creation.

He insists that the major mistake the Muslims could make is their trying to bring forward the differences and distinctiveness from others; hence inspiring differences among believers in an age where a war is issued by the followers of the God of the Market mechanism against all spiritual concepts, ideals and conscience. Those followers want all to fight all, for the sake of the new material, market-based futile religion - a religion in which man is just a producing and consuming robot.

He thinks that no one, Muslim or otherwise, has the right to monopolize truth. As the only absolute truth is that of God, and no one is entitled to speak for God and to claim the word of full truth. Thus, Muslims are required to study and re-study their religion and to initiate dialogue with all others. We all need the experience of other religions, just as they need ours. We are all in need to learn from each other. Thus, the current dialogue between religions is fraudulent and hypocritical. We don't need the Muslim theologians and the Christian saints to sit in full politeness listening to each other, while rejecting the other totally inside. It would be much more helpful if each shouts to the other: "Hey, I think you are crazy, but I accept you as you are."

Garaudy also stated openly that the reason of the deformed image of Islam in the eyes of

the others is the Muslims themselves who stick always to the old explanations of the Holy Quran (tafaseer), as if Islamic thought has died one thousand years ago. No serious modern attempts were made in that respect. Garaudy also thinks that the Quran is taught to people in a barbarian way.

About the role of Muslims in the world, he believes that it is a totally innate, begging charity from the International Monetary Fund and similar bodies; and therefore, their free will is almost dead.

The West classifies them into two groups - the obedient lot - the one that keeps saying "Yes" and which the West treats with charitable humiliation; and the rebellious lot - diagnosed and treated as radicalists and terrorists.

He thinks that the retreat of Islam as a world value is due to its withdrawal of its former role as a social revolution, and a combination of the brightest values of the various cultures and civilizations. Cordova is an example of once an Islamic enlightenment center when London and Paris were just tiny towns. Losing their initial causes, the downfall of Muslims is due to their claim of the whole truth, and their neglect of the right of others for equality - both a sad ironic current in the reality of modern Muslims. In addition, there is also the lack of self-criticism. Hence the failure to provide innovative concepts and explanations.

Talking about the cultural invention, Garaudy thinks that this invention is directed to the whole of mankind, not just to Muslims. His example of France seems impressive when he states that 60% of the films shown in Francere American. There are many other examples which need be mentioned here.

Yet, this Western civilization has a lot to offer in terms of violence and destruction, as after five centuries of Western domination, 20% of the world population still manages and keeps 80% of the world's fortunes, thus allowing 25 million persons in the Third World to die of hunger. We can also remember what a few minutes have done in Hiroshima.

As usual, Garaudy places dialogue as the only solution for this moral havoc, pressing and urging the peoples of earth to talk and listen to each other openly and freely. He is not calling for similarity; otherwise, there is no meaning for the rich and various heritage of mankind. He is rather calling for the acceptance of each other as he/she is, and glorifying the fact that we are different, but able to co-exist.

The lessons of co-existence are mostly needed in those times where the thoughts inspire death penalties. One impressive example can be detected in the answer of a Lebanese woman, a Christian, living with a Muslim family in a war-destroyed house, to one of the journalists who asked her how she felt living with a Muslim family, she simply answered, "I am living with a Lebanese family simply under the same conditions."

• CONGRATULATIONS •

**Friends and colleagues congratulate**  
*Management Consultant*  
**Khaled A.K. Sooki**

**For having taken over the reorganization of the largest printing and publishing firm in the Republic of Yemen**  
**Horizons Printing & Publishing, Est.**  
**We wish him continued success in his worthy and fruitful endeavors.**

**Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf**  
Yemen Times

**Abdulla Faris & Associates, Inc.**  
OSys of Yemen

## YMPC Gets Ready for Business

Dr. Assem Al-Malazi, General Manager of Yemen Mayfair Petroleum Corporation (YMPC), told the Yemen Times that as soon as the post to work in Yemen was offered to him he jumped at the opportunity, mainly because of his desire to know Yemen and be associated with it.

Al-Malazi, a native of Aleppo, Syria, had served in many parts of the world like Algeria, Germany and Nigeria. It so happens that he is the brother of Najeeb Al-Malazi, YMPC's Chairman, and the man who came to Yemen in 1981, and saw the country's oil potential. "He was instrumental in mobilizing the interest of international oil companies in coming to Yemen. He brought in Hunt Oil," explained Dr. Al-Malazi.

YMPC's concession, block 22, Zaidiyah, is a 9000 square kilometer coastal stretch extending from north of Hodeidah to the Saudi Arabian border. Although the concession agreement was only ratified on April 8th, 1993, the agreement itself had been signed almost a year earlier - on July 29th, 1992.

The agreement calls for a two-phase exploration effort starting from the ratification date - one-year for seismic and other studies, and one and a half years for data processing and interpretation, and drilling an exploration well.

"We are sifting through a lot of data collected from earlier efforts by other companies such as Shell and BP. Each company has its own policy and philosophy in data interpretation and analysis. We are very optimistic about the possibilities," he said.

"The plans are to start the seismic studies later this year, some time in December, when the marshlands would have dried up. We will focus on areas that will complete the gap in the seismic lines and will provide the information needed for making exploration decisions," Dr. Al-Malazi explained. YMPC has already set up shop on site. This week, the general manager inaugurated the company office in Sanaa. "We are ready to go into action, and we hope to live up to the expectations we have," Dr. Al-Malazi said.

In speaking about relations with the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, the company general manager said that he was getting all the support and encouragement he needed.

"It helps that I speak the same language and see many things the way the Yemenis see them. I feel comfortable with the socio-culture, and I identify with the country," he added.

Dr. Al-Malazi left this week to collect his family and come to settle in Yemen for a few years.

Yemen Times joins in welcoming the Malazis!

## Yemen's War on Garbage

These days, heaps of refuse and choked gutters and the resultant smell are turning Sanaa, the capital into a shanty town. Smoke from the burning of the heaps of garbage in the neighborhoods has become a daily scene.

The Mayor's office and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning have declared war on garbage. "The situation is getting out of hand," according to an internal memo of the Ministry.

One of the main aspects of the problems is cultural. Yemenis are not used to producing so much refuse, and they just don't know what to do with it, and they are not fully aware of the implication of mis-handling the garbage.

"Hygiene is not exactly the strong point of Yemenis," chuckled a foreigner living in Sanaa. The problem is also growing as the population of Sanaa grows with people coming from the rural areas. The population of Sanaa is now estimated at 1.1 million. The residents do not feel duty-bound to keep their surrounding clean, nor do they see paying for the disposal of the tons of waste they produce daily.

There is another issue here. The culture of the people of Sanaa is neither urban nor

rural. This is a phenomenon called by sociologists the "ruralization" of Sanaa. That is to say that the style of life is halfway between the rural and urban patterns.

As an example, a resident of the Sanaa University complex on the ring road says, "We put our garbage in plastic bags, tie it well, and put it in the garbage metal bins or cans. A shepherd comes, role the can over, open up all the bags and lets the garbage out for his goats and sheep to feed on. We have a daily fight in our hands."

The rural areas are relatively more clean as the amount of garbage produced by the people is smaller, and the population densities are lower.

The foreign workforces which is charged with the collection of the garbage continues to threaten with repeated strikes, as the government runs late in paying their salaries, specially the hard currency component. "I do not understand why we cannot train and employ Yemenis to do this job, because a two or three-day strike simply makes life unbearable in the cities, specially in Sanaa," complained one government official.

The war against garbage has started, and the government better win it.

## Business Clips:

\* Yemeni Livestock is being shipped in increasing quantity to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. According to reports, merchants are roaming the Tihama to buy sheep and goats and shipping them by trucks to the Saudi border, where correspondent merchants pick them and transfer them to the Saudi market.

The depreciation of the Yemeni Riyal (One Saudi Riyal fetches twelve Yemeni Riyals in the parallel market), has made Yemeni products rather cheap for the Saudi consumer. As a result, a YR 2000 Riyal sheep would cost only SR.167, which is rather inexpensive.

On average, some 60 trucks, each carrying about 70 sheep and goats are shipped to Saudi Arabia every day, according to reports.

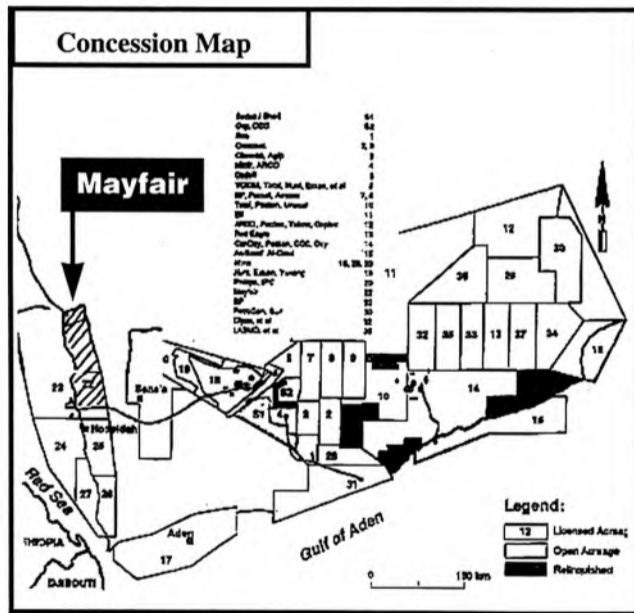
\* Dr. Abdul-Rahman Ba-Fadhle, Minister of Trade and Supply, has decided to ban the importation of fruits in fulfillment of Cabinet Resolution No. 285 of 1991. So much for free trade!

\* The Pensions and Social Security Corporation is sitting on gold, according to inside reports. The corporation, which receives 12% of the total payroll of the government employees as well as of employees in the public, mixed and cooperative sectors, is unable to dispense of the large amounts at its disposal. "Their ability to invest is limited to real estate," observed one government official.

\* The Al-Maharah officials are busy at work to prepare a transit corridor into Oman. According to the results of a meeting held in Al-Ghaidhah on Thursday, July 15th, the procedures and steps involved in crossing the border have been finalized.

Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Keddah, Governor of Al-Maharah, expressed satisfaction at the progress made on the border demarcation and the economic cooperation agreements.

\* Three new printing presses are being established in Sanaa. The press of Al-Thawri newspaper, owned by the Yemeni Socialist Party will come into operation next week. The second press belongs to Mr. Mohammed Nasser Al-Sanabani and it is expected to start operations in about three weeks. Finally, a third press is being executed near the Haddah area, and it will come into operation in about six weeks.



**تعازيننا الحارة**

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء بأحر التعازي والمواساة لجميع آل البركاني بوفاة المغفور له

**عبدالواسع البركاني**

في حادثة سيارة يوم الخميس ١٥/٧/١٩٩٣

تغمده الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته  
وأهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان

وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

د/عبدالعزیز السقاف  
د/ياسين عبدالعليم القباطي  
النائب عبدالحبيب سالم مقبل

## EC-Japanese Car Negotiations

The European Community, its car industry mired in the worst slump in decades, faces the tough task of trying to persuade Japan to accept new cuts in its auto exports to the EC.

Negotiators from the EC and Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) concluded three days of difficult talks last week, barely three months after Tokyo had accepted a 9.4% reduction in last year's export level.

That accord was based on projections that the demand for new cars in the 12-member community would shrink by 6.5% this year from 13.94 million cars sold in 1992. The drop now appears likely to be far greater.

Figures compiled by the European Automobile Manufacturers Association show EC sales off 17.8% over the first six months of this year. Industry officials predict an overall drop of at least 15.8% for the year.

So the EC's executive commission is pressing Japan to make deeper cuts in auto exports line with a 1991 agreement aimed at giving European car makers time to prepare for unrestricted competition after 1999.

The pact, which came into force as France, Spain, Italy, Britain and Portugal abolished national import quotas, provides for the monitoring of Japanese imports and their adjustment according to European demand.

With European automakers

complaining of their worst crisis since the oil shock of the 1970s, or perhaps since World War II, EC commission officials are confident the Japanese will more ground:

"I am rather optimistic because they have played the game up until now," said a spokesman for industry commissioner Martin Bangemann.

But with their own car industry also having problems, the Japanese officials simply resisted to make any more concessions in last week's talks. Noriyasu Yamada, counsellor for trade and economic affairs at the Japanese embassy to the EC, said it might be premature to engage in new bargaining so soon after the last accord that was only concluded on April 1st. "From our point of view, it takes some time to re-examine the market situation," Yamada said.

Although the EC officials have yet to define precisely what they want from Tokyo, industry officials say they want to keep the Japanese share of the market at last year's level - 11.3%. They also would like to include 500,000 vehicles expected to be produced this year by Japanese 'transplant' factories in Europe, mainly in Britain, and not formally covered in the 1991 accord. Japanese car exports to the EC were agreed to be around 1.089 million units, or over 13% of the total demand for cars in the EC countries.

## ECONOMIC RECESSION AND THE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

By: Ameen Nouisser, Economic Editor, Yemen Times.

The condition of the construction industry is usually taken as an indicator of the health of the economy. Thus, in times of recession, housing start-ups falls and the rate of growth in real estate investments declines. This is a general world pattern - all over the world; that is, except in Yemen.

The stagnant economic situation in Yemen should lead to lower investments in the construction industry. In Yemen, in spite of a recession, the construction industry is booming and new housing projects can be seen all over the country, specially in the cities.

According to reports from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, over 4,000 new licences have been issued in the country over the year ending June 1993. "This is a clear indication of the dynamism and vigorous nature of the business, and the economy as a whole," said an official of the ministry.

One of the main reasons may be the relative fall in the prices of the inputs. The cost of cement fell by over 20% due to the inauguration of the Mafraq, Taiz cement plant which has added 500,000 tons of cement to the local market. The opening of the market for free imports has also forced downwards

the prices of steel bars, wood, etc., used in the construction business.

An economist at Sanaa University explained this contradiction by the limited investment options open to investors on the one hand, and the large flows of income that some small groups of people have experienced, on the other.

The demand for housing continues to rise, thus pushing the new investments in this sector. This means that the linkage effect from these investments energizes many other businesses such as quarrying, trucking, carpentry, iron-smiths, etc. After all, the total investment in the housing industry is YR. 10 billion every year.

Thus, the Yemeni construction industry is alive and kicking, in spite of an overall recession and bad economic conditions.

The phenomenon is specially evident in some of the cities more than others. By order of growth rates, the highest rate of housing construction is in Mukallah, Sanaa and Aden. The other urban centers such as Taiz, Dhamar and Ataq have also witnessed important growth rates.

In the final analysis, it is not possible to use the activity in the construction industry to generalize on the whole economy. This is one more thing in Yemen which defies the international norms and logic.

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**IMPORTANT Numbers**

Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumphury Hospital	202192/3
Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
<b>Banks:</b>	
<b>Yemeni Banks:</b>	
Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank: Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
<b>Branches of Foreign Banks:</b>	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
<b>Government Offices:</b>	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
<b>Insurance Companies:</b>	
Y.I. & Reinsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance: Sanaa	206112/14
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General: Sanaa:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance Co.	272890-2



**EMBASSIES & Consulates**

**SANAA :**

**1. Embassies:**

Afghanistan	217691
Algeria	209688/89
Bulgaria	217244
China	275337/340
Cuba	217304/5
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	245792/265469
Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	275995/7
Germany	216756/757, 266873/4
Hungary	216250, 216679
India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	217388
Iran	206945/948
Iraq	216682/790
Italy	73409/78849
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	216701/736
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	216317/319
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	215404/5
Poland	248362
Qatar	217488/296
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	78272/78275
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	265231/2
Syria	247750/52
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395

U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A.	238842/52
Vietnam	216985

**2. Honorary Consulates:**

Austria	266725
Belgium	205925/865
Canada	208814
Danish Trade Office	243433
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	209360
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	203534

**3. International Organizations:**

FAO	207331/607
UNDP	215505
UNHCR	204963
UNICEF	231256/7/8
WHO	252213/204

**ADEN Consulates :**

China	233115
Ethiopia (Commercial)	231335
France	223129/090
Germany	232162/233607
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
Russian (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	232760/32526
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13.
FAO Branch	233722/232146

**AIR LINES**

Air France	272895/6
Air India	272544
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda (HO, Aden)	231339
Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways	272247
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909
KLM	78093/76968/270879
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	74930
Sabena	205865
Sudan Airways	272503-5
Swiss Air	272547
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel	275028-30

**Yemenia Branches:**

Abdul-Mughni	274803/4
Haddah	204538/550
Shaub	250833
Zubeiry	260834/5
Head Office	232381-9
Reservations	250800/1
Airport	250868/831

**COURIERS**

Aramex / Sana'a	243.925
Aramex / Aden	255.683
Aramex / Taiz	213.489
Aramex / Hodeidah	218.168
DHL	248017-249878
Life Express	205696
Skypack	77310
American Express	272435/6

**HOTELS**

<b>Sana'a (01)</b>	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
<b>Aden (02)</b>	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
<b>Hodeidah (03)</b>	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
<b>Taiz (04)</b>	
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
<b>Marib (063)</b>	
Biquis Marib	2666-2371
<b>Sadah (051)</b>	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
<b>Mukalla (09152)</b>	
Hadhramaut	2060

**The UN: Making War to Achieve Peace?**

UN peace keeping operations are mushrooming all over the world as the "blue helmets" get involved in more and more local and regional conflicts (Please refer to map). There are two major problems facing this development. The first is financial. The UN is unable to meet its financial obligations as the major donor countries have not made their contributions as regularly as they should. The USA is the country with the largest arrears. The second issue facing this development is ethical and legal. It is, no doubt, the role of the UN to provide peace and order, but the peace-keeping process has been seriously politicized. The UN seems to have become a tool to serve the interests and policies of the permanent members of the Security Council, and more directly, the USA. How the UN evolves, and the world reaction to its role, will depend on this factor more than anything else.

**UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS**

\*Voluntary contributions account for 70% of the cost

<b>1. ONUVAL (El Salvador)</b> 1,000 in various combinations constantly changing, including civilians Cost: \$48 million	<b>5. UNAVEM II (Angola)</b> 878 military observers, police monitors and electoral observers Cost: \$110 million	<b>10. ONUMOZ (Mozambique)</b> 7,500 to be deployed in 1993 Cost: \$31 million
<b>2. UNPROFOR (Former Yugoslavia)</b> About 27,000 military, police and civilian staff deployed in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, with small unit to go to Macedonia. Cost: Not available European nations and Canada paying costs for their 6,500 forces in Bosnia	<b>6. UNIFIL (Lebanon)</b> 5,365 troops and 66 military observers Cost: \$153 million	<b>11. Somalia</b> 4,400 troops, logistics and civilians are authorized but only 550 have arrived Cost: Estimated at \$202 million annually if they all arrived
<b>3. MINURSO (Western Sahara)</b> 548 (2,900 are authorized but have run into political problems) Cost: \$64 million	<b>7. UNDOF (Golan Heights)</b> 1,130 troops and 96 military observers Cost: \$43 million	<b>12. UNMOGIP (India-Pakistan)</b> 40 military observers authorized Cost: Not available
<b>4. UNFICYP (Cyprus)</b> Reduced to 1,488 troops Cost: About \$18 million* (for 1992)	<b>8. UNTSO (Arab-Israeli)</b> 224 military observers Cost: Not available	<b>13. UNTAC (Cambodia)</b> 20,000 military and civilian staff Cost: About \$1 billion
<b>9. UNIKOM (Iraq-Kuwait)</b> 300 military observers and 200 other military personnel Cost: \$67 million		

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**تهنئة وترحيب**  
**Welcome Back Home, Ghamdan,**

يسرنا أن نتقدم إلى الأخ  
المهندس/ غمدان أحمد الأنسي  
نجل المهندس/ أحمد محمد الأنسي ❖ وزير المواصلات  
بأحر التهانئ والتبريكات بمناسبة قدوم مولودته «شيماء»  
ونرحب بعودته من الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية بالسلامة.

❖❖❖  
أخوانك في:

**Anti-Social, or is that Merely A Fantasy?**

By Ismail al-Ghabri  
Yemen Times

For years social scientists have been investigating the role of the mass media in our lives. Newspapers, magazines, cinema, radio and TV have become part of our daily routine, in whatever cultural, political, religious, and economic circumstances in which the media operate. In other words, patterns of media used in one country are not necessarily the same in another. Some cross-cultural similarities between cultures are possible, however. One does not have to look far to find critics of the mass media. The media are visible and often deal with important events which strike a few sensitive nerves. In many countries there seems to be a growing belief that TV is the cause of anti-social behavior. There are numerous examples of government officials and politicians criticizing the media - particularly the news media - when they feel they have been unfairly treated. The following points apply more specifically to TV than to the other media, although they surely apply to others as well.

People find mass communication to be a form of diversion, an escape from routine. Many people find broadcasting and cinema primarily a means of temporary escape from day to day events. An exciting TV program can relieve one of the burden of work-related or domestic activity which, though essential, is perhaps not enjoyable. Various forms of mass media intake can act as a diversion from problems from which we feel the need for release. This is a relatively normal activity, but if carried to excess can lead to escaping from problems which should be faced and dealt with. Mass media consumption for emotional release is probably the most complicated of the three forms of escape. Essentially, this involves people who project themselves into characters in the media in order to identify with them and to achieve some sort of emotional release by means of this identification. Some people find mass media important in terms of personal relationships. They feel that characters on radio and TV are their companions. People who in real life do not easily form personal relationships often find fulfillment in a vicarious,

imaginary relationship with an actress or actor. Those who live alone, especially the elderly, find TV and radio programs a substitute for "real" companionship. Possibly the most vivid experience of the often close relationship between the audience and media persons is the way that people often react when something happens to a popular TV character. On popular programs all over the world, actors playing characters who have fallen sick or been hurt in the course of a drama often receive fan mail indicating that viewers actually believe the characters exist. An important topic of communications research has been the use of mass media for social unity. Many also believe mass communication is important to their personal identity. The final item under the classification of personal identity is that of value reinforcement. Some radio and TV programs are international in character.

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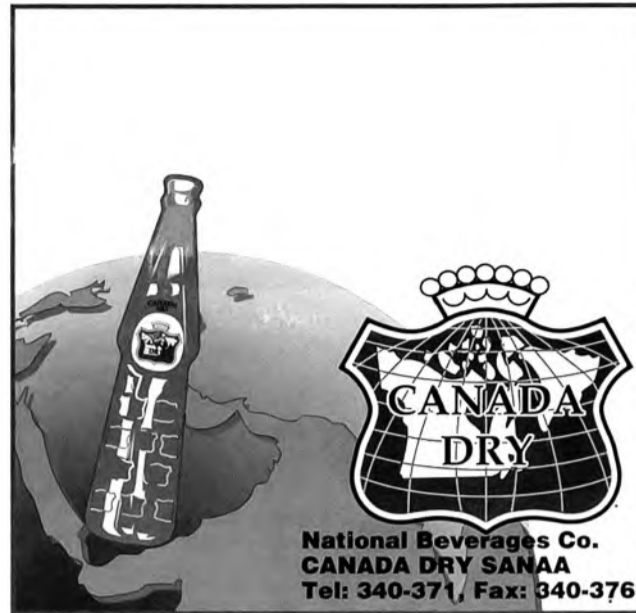
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• Analysis •

**President Saleh to Saut Al-Ummal:**

**“The press must serve as a national forum to expose corruption and abuse...”**

“I ask the media to cooperate with us by working to expose the corruption, abuse and inefficiencies in government.” So stated Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, in an interview with Saut Al-Ummal newspaper published on 15th July. In an interview that can be termed as direct and frank, the newspaper put forth all the

sensitive issues that face the country, today. On Mansoor Rajih, a political prisoner who has been named as “Prisoner of Conscience” by Amnesty International, the president said that Mr. Rajih has been tried and found guilty by a court of law. “I can’t interfere in the judicial system,” the president said. Mr. Rajih, a poet and writer, was a member of an anti-Saleh

opposition front during the 1980s. On Sultan Al-Sameyi, the former parliamentarian who was involved in a pre-meditated skirmish with police forces, and was thus de facto disqualified from running for parliament, the president said that Mr. Al-Sameyi was involved in a crime, and that he should present himself to the authorities.

Regarding the prevalent corruption in the system, the president said that corrupt elements in the government must be penalized, and that he seeks the cooperation of the community in such efforts.

The president did show his dismay with Saut Al-Ummal newspaper, to which he gave lots of advice as to how to report events in a ‘patriotic way.’

The president also talked about plans to improve the lot of the people by streamlining the government’s efforts.

The three-hour long interview was carried out at the request of the president, and was carried out by the paper’s managing editor, Mohammed Qassim Noman.

Saut Al-Ummal newspaper, owned by the Federation of Workers’ Unions, and issued out of Aden, is Yemen’s most influential newspaper. Its circulation of over 60,000 copies by far exceed any of the other papers, including the government papers.

**YEMEN & THE GULF: Slow but Steady Progress**

The Republic of Yemen and the Arab Gulf States are slowly but steadily inching towards each other in an attempt to overcome the fallout from the Gulf War.

Omani Foreign Minister, Yusuf Bin Alawi, has concluded a fruitful visit to Yemen last week, and Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jabr Aal Thani, also arrived in Sanaa on an official visit to Yemen on Friday, July 16th. To reciprocate, Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah has concluded a visit to Bahrain last week, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s envoy to Riyadh leaves next week. On top of all, HE Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan, President of the UAE, and HM Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed of Oman have plans to visit Yemen before the end of 1993.

What all this means is that contact and potential cooperation between Yemen and the Gulf States is being invigorated. Hopefully, these efforts will lead to a return to the warm bilateral relations, and on a sound and clear basis.

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