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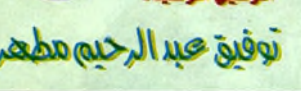
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The Yemeni Problem is Quickly Evolving into a Yemeni-Saudi Problem

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor,
Yemen Times

The mood in Sanaa against Saudi Arabia is getting uglier by the day. Most Yemenis ask one famous question these days: "What do the Saudis want from us?" The Saudi campaign to re-partition Yemen is no longer a covert business, it is an open affair.

An increasing number of Yemenis are also upset that their government is behaving in a tolerant way towards the Saudis. "As they (the Saudis) have shown their true colors, why is the (Sanaa) government holding back? It should confront it openly and allow the people of Yemen to do whatever they can to make the Saudis pay for their anti-Yemen actions," said a speaker last week in a lecture at Sanaa University.

A. What Have the Saudis Been Doing?

1. Contrary to resolution #924, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been sending arms to the war. This week a \$16 million deal in which squadrons of Apache Helicopters, Mig 21s, Mig 29s and tanks have been finalized to equip the growing army of the self-proclaimed Yemen Democratic Republic (YDR).

2. The Saudi media has worked overtime in order to help complicate the situation. The government-owned newspapers coming out of Riyadh, Jeddah and elsewhere, as well as Saudi-financed media in Europe have been devoting substantial space, including on the first page, to report stories on the Yemeni war. The reporting, however, is one-sided and aims at creating further schism within Yemen.

3. Saudi Arabia has been campaigning regionally and internationally against Sanaa, and it has been able to "entice" many countries to see things its way. The internationalization of the problem is a Saudi tool in order to reduce the ability of Sanaa to control the situation. Thus, the Saudis were the engineers of UN Security Council Resolution # 924, which they now blatantly violate. They are also the prime movers of the new resolution which is expected rather soon.

4. Saudi Arabia is the principal banker of the YDR. The Kingdom, alongwith other countries, which chip in a smaller way, have been bank-rolling the new state.

B. How Are the Yemenis Gearing up to Retaliate?

The reaction in Yemen has been obvious. There is an increasing tendency to try to get even. What are the options?

1. Some radicalization of Yemen has already taken place. Most Yemenis would look the other way as the fanatics increasingly make their presence felt, as it is these fanatics who are expected to make the Saudis pay. Already, some underground cells are taking shape. These are expected to evolve into suicide missions to hunt down Saudi royal family members.

The idea is initiate assassination missions against Saudi officials in order to get even with them.

2. Yemen is also working hard to expose Saudi intentions to the world by sending delegates to explain the reality of the situation. But this effort falls much short. As a leading diplomat in Sanaa said, Yemen has done very poorly in presenting its case to the world community.

3. The main thing the country could do is really to show the world that Saudi Arabia does not abide by the Security Council it had engineered. For example, the government of Yemen needs to present hard proof of Saudi arm supplies to the YDR.

4. Finally, the government and people of Yemen are already studying plans to start anti-Saudi campaigns and mobilize efforts to engulf the big neighbor in the north with as many complications as possible. Some initial ideas to de-stabilize Saudi Arabia are in the works.



A war that is set to change directions: from a west-east to a north-south

C. A Self-Fulfilling Saudi Prophecy:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents its "worries" by pointing to the rise of fundamentalism in Yemen and complaining that Yemen was becoming a source of regional instability. It has sold the idea to its American friends who now see the need to support the Saudis to "take care" of this trouble.

As one observer in Sanaa noted, unfortunately, this policy may just become a self-fulfilling prophecy. The Saudis may be pushing Yemen to purposefully work to destabilize the region just to fight back. In addition, it has been responsible for the radicalization of Yemen, something of which it complains.

D. The Role of the World Community:

The world has been interacting with Security Council Resolution #924 in a partial manner. No doubt, stopping the war and saving human life and property is essential and must be done. But the resolution also calls for an arms embargo. No one talks about this factor, which itself is an essential element for not doing war in the future.

Many countries are also behaving in a strange way by supporting the Saudi bully. It is ironic, for example, that the Americans, who have a solid history of taking positions favoring the underdog, are now siding with Saudi Arabia. A new UN Security Council seems to be inevitable, and is

actually expected rather soon. It is expected to follow along the lines of 924.

The main new features include a mechanism to observe the ceasefire (by the way no one is speaking of a mechanism to stop arm inflows), and the transformation of the role of Al-Akhthar Al-Ibrahimi from a fact-finding mission, to an intermediary with enough authority to push things. The Saudis are pushing for built-in penalties, but they are not expected to succeed in pushing this through, at least not in this resolution. Thus, as the YDR leadership becomes more dependent on Saudi Arabia, the struggle is shifting from a Yemeni one to a Yemeni-Saudi one!

Americans Enjoy Football, But...

The American public is fast learning to love football, what they call soccer in the US. The on-going World Cup matches have done a lot to endear the game to the American public which goes for baseball, football (American football, that is), and basketball.

In several opinion polls and media surveys, the American public, when asked about the game, and whether it enjoyed it, answered in the positive. But there were a few reforms and changes they wanted to make. Here are some of their suggestions:

1. What is this thing that goes on and on for 45 minutes. There must be two-minute breaks every ten or fifteen minutes. The Americans who follow most of their games on TV, are a nation that gets bored quickly. They want to move every fifteen minutes, make a phone call, go the toilet, get a fresh beer, etc.
2. Where are the advertisements? Traditional American games get their flavor from the commercials. In football (or rather soccer), the commercials are placards. The American want live commercials.
3. Where are the cheer-leaders? That is something exciting missing in football.

Farewell, Jerome!

Our Jerome Bernard leaves us early next month. This week's edition of the French Page is going to be the last one, at least for a while.

Jerome is a volunteer seconded to Yemen Times. His replacement has not come!



Jerome has done an excellent work at the Times. He is not given to colors and flare, but his calm and prudent style has gained him and the paper a special readership. I take this opportunity to thank him and wish him the best of luck.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Document of Pledge & Accord: The Road to Peace & Harmony

Most Yemenis are engaged in a desperate search for the road that leads to peace. The war is taking its heavy toll on all sides. The road to peace is not an easy one, but at least they are all trying to find a way out.

The reality of the situation is that Sanaa wants minimal foreign involvement, because it has the military upper hand and it can push through a solution based on its vision. That means a unified country based in Sanaa, and to bring the irredentists and separatists to trial. Of course, that is a long shot, if at least because both sides were responsible for the crisis and ultimately the war.

Aden wants more foreign involvement because it thinks it has more countries on its side. That happens to be true. But it is not something to be necessarily happy about. The perception is that the newly-established self-proclaimed Yemen Democratic Republic is agreeing to serve as a client-state.

In the worst case scenario, the country is split, then the North becomes a nursing ground for fanaticism, terrorism, and other forms of international lawlessness. It is a poor country that is broken, demoralized, and holds a grudge against its neighbors.

The South, although a bit richer, becomes a client state. Harmony will remain beyond its reach as old scores are now settled under the patronage of a regional boss.

That is not for Yemen.

A unified Yemen continues to be the most practical solution for local, regional and international considerations. Moreover, it is the wish of the majority of the people of Yemen. Therefore, it is the road to be taken.

What kind of unity do we want?

An over-centralized unified Yemen is not going to serve any purpose. A decentralized system is the best option. This can be achieved through the implementation of the Document of Pledge and Accord. All sides had agreed to it and had promised to implement it.

Sanaa has a lot to gain by the implementation of this document. It will preserve Yemeni unity, and lead the country to growth and prosperity. It will allow more international prestige and status for our rulers.

Aden has a lot to gain by the implementation of this document. It will have more control over its own affairs, as well as the region around it, and it will blossom in a system based on law and order. The country will take off because of liberal market-based economy and a multi-party political system.

Why are our politicians trying to find different solutions when they have a solution? It is called the Document of Pledge and Accord.

The Publisher
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Opposition Parties Present View on Solving the Crisis and War

The Five-Party Opposition Bloc plus the National Unity Forces and a few public personalities have been holding meetings to discuss possible solutions to the current war. According to a preliminary report, the group has agreed to guidelines which it hopes to present to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and at a later stage, to the YSP leadership. The guidelines include the following points:

- The Unity of Yemen is taken for granted and it is the base for a solution.

- To initiate dialogue immediately as it is the only way to resolve the differences.

- Immediate ceasefire to be fully enforced and respected.

- Rescinding all the decisions taken by both sides since the war started.

- Creating a new forum to supervise and enforce the ceasefire, and this should include observers from all the major political forces.

The Opposition also evolved a scenario for holding the dialogue. It calls for meetings to alternate between Amman and Muscat and to involve people who did not visibly contribute to the war.

The Fifth Ceasefire Falls Apart

The fifth ceasefire announced by Sanaa, and accepted by Aden, did not take hold. Sanaa had announced that starting at midnight on Saturday, leading into Sunday, there will be a ceasefire.

Unfortunately, the fighting after the six-hour lull intensified as government troops tried to overrun YSP forces stationed in Little Aden.

The process has enabled the government forces to knock out the antennas of Aden Radio Station, but attempts to capture the water tanks of Aden city failed. In general, the gains were minimal.

Security Council Discusses Yemeni Problem Today

UN Secretary-General, Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, presents today his report on the situation in Yemen to the Security Council. The Council is already studying a second resolution insisting on an immediate ceasefire, and forming an observation team to enforce it. The Council is also expected to reassign Al-Akhdhar Al-Ibrahimi giving him authority to inter-mediate between the two warring factions and supervise the negotiations. Most observers believe Al-Ibrahimi has a tough job ahead of him.

Medical Workshops in Taiz

Several medical training programs offering crash courses on caring for injured persons are underway in Taiz. "Some of these are just simple wound cleaning and stitching processes while others are more elaborate," said Dr. Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati, a leading member of the Taiz medical profession.

According to government sources, Taiz has been receiving the largest waves of wounded soldiers because of its proximity to Aden, where the fiercest and most prolonged wars are taking place.

"Female participation in these workshops is exceptionally high," according to observers.

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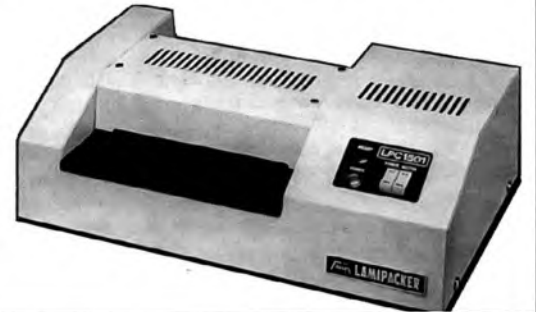
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Jabir Ali Saeed:

"NGOs can play an effective developmental role."

One symptom of a civil society based on a democratic system is the growth of grass-roots level voluntary organizations. This means a higher participation by the people in public affairs. It also means developing new channels of communication between the people and the decision-makers.

Yemen has had a long history of popular and grass-roots level organization, although along tribal lines. Over the last few years, modern Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have grown in numbers and in geographic coverage. The plethora of NGOs has given hope that a new civil society can evolve in the country.

The NGOs are the responsibility of the Ministry of Pensions and Social Affairs. Within the Ministry, Mr. Jabir Ali Saeed, Director-General of Associations, Unions and Federations, is charged with the job. Jabir is a law graduate and an old hand at legal and public relations.

Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times went to speak with Mr. Jabir Ali Saeed and filed the following interview:



Total Number of Registered Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as of 31/12/1993:

Societies	Number
Welfare Societies	164
Cultural Associations	5
Social Organizations	38
Unions, Federations	62
Friendship Associations	11
Subtotal	280
Cooperatives	
Agricultural Cooperatives	235
Handicrafts Cooperatives	26
Consumer Cooperatives	48
Fisheries Cooperatives	20
Housing Cooperatives	143
Subtotal	472
TOTAL	752

Q: Let us start with a broad-based question. How do you see the NGO movement evolving?

A: You will note that the growth and strength of any grass-roots level effort requires a certain atmosphere or environment. That did not exist in Yemen except after unification. Another prerequisite is also the social fabric and structure of the community, because the value system is an important aspect of cooperative and volunteer work. Moreover, the attitude towards philanthropic and altruistic efforts.

All those things together determine how useful and effective NGOs are. We in Yemen have a long history of cooperation among our people. It was called takaful (supporting one another) and tadhamun (solidarity). That is why we have found it easy to re-invigorate this aspect of our social relations.

Over the last few years, we offered our citizens the right to organize themselves along any formations they chose to come together and help one another. So we have seen many associations and societies, unions, cooperatives, consumer protection organizations, neighborhood groups, professional affiliations, etc. I am happy to state that there were at the end of last year 752 such organizations.

Q: How is an association formed?

A: According to the law, there must be at least a nucleus of 30 founding members. These get together, draft their by-laws, state the purpose of their association, and work out the basic concept behind the effort.

Then they come to our office. We review the documents and help them in further evolving the project if that is necessary. Once everything is in order, we ask the founding members to choose a date for calling on all members to attend the first general congress of the association. In this first congress, the documents are analyzed, discussed and approved by the membership, and then the executive board of the association is elected by secret ballots.

A representative of our office attends this meeting. These are the main steps, and they take roughly two months, but that depends on the abilities of the founding members.

Q: What are the responsibilities of your office, after an NGO is established?

A: We play a supervisory role. We demand that all NGOs supply us with copies of their final accounts and the reports of their auditors. We also require that we are consulted on the major projects, especially if we are required to co-finance.

Q: What kind of role and hope do you pin on NGOs?

A: I think NGOs can play three roles as follows:

- The Support Role: NGOs can play an important role in supporting disadvantaged members of society. This is especially critical as the state has yet to provide services to the less fortunate members of society. I hope that the NGOs will help this segment of society.

- The Employment Role: There is a large number of young Yemenis who are unable to find work. By initiating small-scale projects at the grass-roots level, NGOs are most capable of generating employment, even if payment is rather small.

- The Guidance Role: We are at a time of transformation - socially, culturally and technologically. We think that our young people will be properly brought up and guided in evolving through this transformation.

Through all those roles, I think that the NGOs can play an effective role in the development process.

Q: What kind of categories of NGOs exist?

A: There are basically two groups of NGOs. There are the societies, and there are the cooperatives. There are 280 societies and 472 cooperatives, giving a total of 752 NGOs.

Q: Are these NGOs supported by your ministry and other sources?

A: We have some funds that usually cover the rental and other basic expenditures of some of these NGOs. But that is minimal.

Foreign funding is more extensive and more effective. International organizations, international NGOs, and bilateral donors have been helping.

Q: What are the main difficulties faced by the NGO movement?

A: There are many difficulties and problems. One of the most serious problems is the politicization of NGOs. That has ruined the soul and credibility of the movement. Other problems include financial constraints, administrative difficulties, etc.



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“YEMEN NEEDS MORE SPECIALISED CLINICS.”

Dr. Ali Al-Thari, (read th in name as in the) owner and operator of Nashwan Orthopedic Clinic, on Taiz Road, is a story of rags to riches. That is because he is an entrepreneur par excellence. Above all, however, he wants to be seen as a professional. That he is, indeed. He is a good bone doctor.

He graduated from Egypt in 1970/71. Later, he went to the U.S.A for specialized training. He finished his studies successfully, and came back home with a degree in orthopedics. Once in Yemen, he started by joining Al-Thawra Hospital and stayed on for three years - during the years 1985-1987. After that, he decided to open a private clinic which offers specialized services in the treatment of bones. The clinic now also treats other general cases.

Ms. Sarra Ginedabi of Yemen Times paid a visit to the clinic and talked to Dr. Al-Thari. Following is the report she filed:

Q. What are the main cases which come to you for treatment?

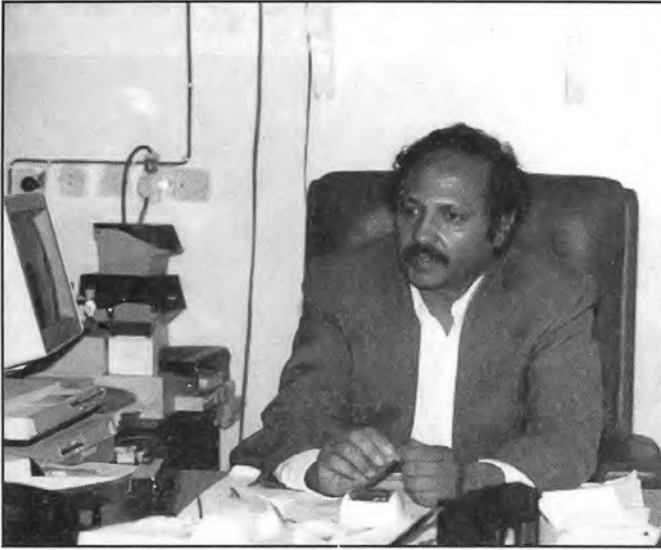
A. We come across all kinds of cases. Any bone that needs fixing is our business.

If the question tries to define the most recurrent cases, I think bone fractures due to car accidents and falling are the most frequent. You cannot imagine the number of people, mainly children, who fall off trees, houses, etc. That is partly normal because we are a rural society.

We also treat a lot of cases that result from accidental or intentional fire-arm handling. The on-going war is a case in point.

Q: Do you work exclusively with patients that have bone problems?

A: No, we also treat many other



diseases and problems. Cases that have to do with difficult births is a case in point. We have modern apparatuses needed for children diseases. Another sector is the machines for kidneys cases and modern equipment for laboratory analysis in our clinic. We now aspire to open a new section for the treatment of cancerous tumors. But, there are some impediments which prevent us from going ahead in our work and career.

To sum, we started as an orthopedic center, and we are slowly evolving into a small hospital that provides services to patients in various departments.

Q. You mentioned impediments, what are the difficulties which you face?

A. I do not want to over-emphasize the impediments. But there are some value-related problems. Let me give you an example. Say there is a traffic accident. I as a doctor can't carry out my duty because some policeman has to come, assess the situation, and give his permission. Do you how long it takes to get a policeman to come

to the site of an accident? Do you know how much squabbling goes on between him and the parties before he can assess the situation? Do you know how long before a doctor can have access to a patient?

By the time a doctor is allowed to help a patient, such help may be useless. Often, the injured person/s die/s or at least have lost a lot of blood. Of course, the injured person is in agonizing pain in front of everybody, including the doctor who could do something, but not allowed until the policeman says so!

Another problem has to do with financial complications. We are a private clinic, we have to at least make ends meet. Take the fees of medical treatment, for example. Many people come and leave their sons or daughters or relatives (as ransom) in the clinic and they go to fetch the money. They don't come back and we are stuck with a junior.

This process takes many forms. Let me give you a live example right here. There is a girl who suffered from an inflammation in the back-bone and she was nearly paralyzed. Her relatives just left her and went away without coming back for her or even asking about her. That's just because they are afraid to pay the fee of the operation. We continue to take care of the girl, and once she is well, we will contact the concerned authorities to take legal measures on the situation.

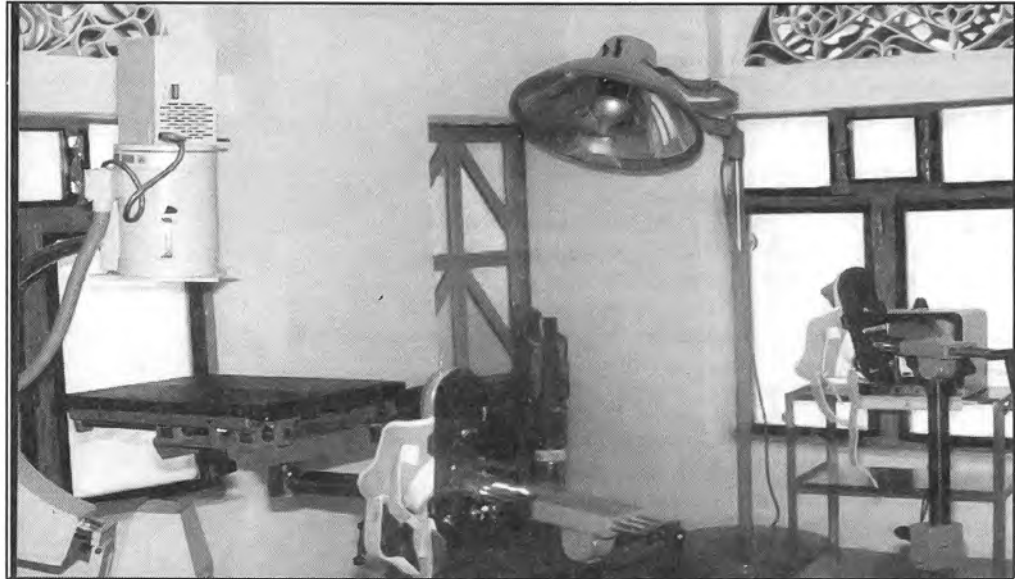
Another problem which face constantly in our work is the preparations we need for an operation. Say, we need to do an operation in the stomach, like in the cases of tumor. We are obliged to take a specimen from the patient's stomach. After the process of taking the specimen, we face difficulties with patients who accuse us of taking money without doing the operation. They don't understand that what we did is part of diagnoses of the disease.

Q. What about the team in your clinic?

A. Most of the medical team are from Iraq. They are excellent. We also depend on the Yemenis and some Indians. The administrative staff is Yemeni

Q. What are the future plans of your clinic?

A. We plan to build a medical center with the services needed by Yemenis. Travelling abroad for medical treatment is a costly and traumatic experience. Yemen needs more specialized clinics and medical services to meet local demand.



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«يمن تايمز» تنشيء صندوقاً لدعم الطلاب من المحافظات الجنوبية والشرقية

مساهمة منها في البحث عن حلول للظروف التي خلقتها الحرب الدائرة في بلادنا ، أنشأت صحيفة «يمن تايمز» من مواردها الذاتية صندوقاً لدعم طلاب وطالبات جامعة صنعاء القادمون من المحافظات الجنوبية والشرقية والملتحقون بالدراسة الجامعية في صنعاء . ويتلخص الفكرة في مساعدة أبنائنا وبناتنا ممن إنقطعت بهم السبل مالياً وتمكينهم من إنجاز ما تبقى من هذا الفصل الدراسي وإستكمال الإمتحانات بنجاح إن شاء الله .

خلال الأسبوع الماضي ، نشرت الصحيفة كشفاً بأسماء (٨٢) طالبا وطالبة إستقلوا من مساعدات «يمن تايمز» ، هذا الأسبوع ، نوالي نشر أسماء (١١١) آخرين إستقلوا من هذه المساعدات . بالمناسبة ، في خطوة ذاتية كريمة ، تقدم إلينا الكابتن الطيار احمد زيد ودفع إلينا بمبلغ خمسة آلاف ريال مساهمة منه في دعم المبادره . وتلاه الدكتور/حميد علي الإرياني الذي أيضاً قدم ٥٠٠٠ ريال . والله من وراء القصد .

د/عبدالعزیز السقاف

الإسم	محافظة المنشأ	الكلية التي يدرس فيها	الإسم	محافظة المنشأ	الكلية التي يدرس فيها
٨٢- زكريا عبد الله محمد	المعلا - عدن	الشرعية	١٤٢- فائز عبد الله عبد القادر بانافع	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	التجارة
٨٤- أنيس قاسم أحمد حيدر	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	التربية	١٤٣- هاني أحمد علي حسين	صيرا - عدن	التجارة
٨٥- خالد سعيد أحمد بارشيد	دوعن - حضرموت	الشرعية	١٤٤- عيظة محمد عيظة الحسيني	المكلا - حضرموت	الطب
٨٦- عماد عبد الله أحمد غانم	التواهي - عدن	الشرعية	١٤٥- عمر برك سالمين عوض	المكلا - حضرموت	الطب
٨٧- فارض فضل عبد الكريم	صيرا - عدن	الشرعية	١٤٦- أحمد علي عوض	المكلا - حضرموت	الآداب
٨٨- أديب عماد طاهر سالم	خور مكسر - عدن	الشرعية	١٤٧- عبد الله محمد عبد الله التهامي	الشعب - عدن	الآداب
٨٩- عبد الحكيم أحمد ناشر سالم	الميناء - عدن	الشرعية	١٤٨- عبد الحافظ مقبل علي منيعم	المنصورة - عدن	الآداب
٩٠- قيس غازي علي ناشر	صيرا - عدن	الزراعة	١٤٩- محمد كرامة محفوظ السمين	المكلا - حضرموت	الطب
٩١- سمير سيف إسماعيل	المعلا - عدن	الشرعية والقانون	١٥٠- سناء سالم ناصر قناف	خور مكسر - عدن	الآداب
٩٢- صلاح سالم سعيد الوجيه	رصد - أبين	التجارة	١٥١- ياقا وهيب عبد الله الزبيدي	عدن - عدن	الآداب
٩٣- عادل أحمد ياسين	كريتر - عدن	الزراعة	١٥٢- فدوى وهيب عبد الله الزبيدي	عدن - عدن	الآداب
٩٤- أحمد مسعد محفوظ باسعود	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم	١٥٣- سهام سالم ناصر محمد	خور مكسر - عدن	الهندسة
٩٥- وهيب علي يسلم بن شيباب	صيرا - عدن	الدبلوم التربوي المتوسط	١٥٤- سمية سالم ناصر محمد	المعلا - عدن	الآداب
٩٦- محمود حسن أحمد يوسف	خور مكسر - عدن	التجارة	١٥٥- رشاد ثابت عمر بن كده	شباب - حضرموت	الآداب
٩٧- محمد عبده قاسم صالح	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	التجارة	١٥٦- أحمد عبد الله محمد بالعيد	موديا - أبين	الشرعية والقانون
٩٨- شاكر أحمد محمد هبير	المكلا - حضرموت	الدبلوم التربوي المتوسط	١٥٧- أبو بكر محمد علي السحولي	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
٩٩- خالد محمد جامع عبدي	خور مكسر - عدن	التجارة	١٥٨- فكري حسن علي فرحان	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٠٠- عيود نعمان عبده علي	المعلا - عدن	الدبلوم التربوي المتوسط	١٥٩- عبد الله صادق أحمد العيدروس	سيئون - حضرموت	الكلية الوطنية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا
١٠١- عبد القادر سالم عجران	كريتر - عدن	الآداب	١٦٠- عادل محمد عبد الله المطري	رصد - أبين	الآداب
١٠٢- إيهاب عبد الله طارش محمد	التواهي - عدن	الآداب	١٦١- رضوان محمد أحمد إمام الدين	كريتر - عدن	الهندسة
١٠٣- رائد يحيى عكاشة أحمد	خور مكسر - عدن	التجارة	١٦٢- علي عبد الله أحمد باقطينان	شبهه - شبوه	الآداب
١٠٤- أحمد علي أحمد حسين	خور مكسر - عدن	التجارة	١٦٣- معمر عبد الله حسين	خور مكسر - عدن	الآداب
١٠٥- رمزي ردمان محمد	المعلا - عدن	الشرعية	١٦٤- أسعد ربات سالم سعيد	الشعب - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٠٦- توحيد محمود عبده سيف	المعلا - عدن	التجارة	١٦٥- عارف عوض الخضر	خور مكسر - عدن	الهندسة
١٠٧- سمير توفيق محمد باشا	كريتر - عدن	الشرعية	١٦٦- جيهان حبيب احمد	كريتر - عدن	الآداب
١٠٨- عبد المعين محمد محسن هرهره	المعلا - عدن	التجارة	١٦٧- إفتهان خالد محمد غالب	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٠٩- مازن محمد حسن ثابت	المعلا - عدن	التجارة	١٦٨- عبد الله أحمد مقبل رسام	الجليل - الضالع - لحج	التربية
١١٠- حسن محمد حسن يحيى	خور مكسر - عدن	التجارة	١٦٩- خالد محمد أحمد علي	موديه - أبين	الشرعية والقانون
١١١- عصام صالح عيطه بن سلم	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم والتكنولوجيا	١٧٠- يسلم محمد ناصر سالم بافجيش	ميفعة - شبوه	الشرعية والقانون
١١٢- إحسان عمر أحمد سعيد	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	الدبلوم التربوي المتوسط	١٧١- عادل حسن الحاج الهيثمي	الحوطة - لحج	الشرعية والقانون
١١٣- بدر محمد أحمد العمودي	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم والتكنولوجيا	١٧٢- علي محسن علي يافعي	عدن - عدن	الهندسة
١١٤- وحيد محمد عبد الله مبارك	كريتر - عدن	العلوم والتكنولوجيا	١٧٣- فهد صالح سالم اللدبوس	شبهه - شبوه	الشرعية والقانون
١١٥- مهيب شائف عبد القوي	صيرا - عدن	الشرعية	١٧٤- فهيم أحمد فضل علي	كريتر - عدن	التربية
١١٦- عبد الوهاب محمد عوض با صالح	المكلا - حضرموت	التجارة	١٧٥- نائله محمد إسماعيل أحمد	صيرا - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١١٧- رياض عبد الرحمن أبو بكر با سلامة	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم والتكنولوجيا	١٧٦- محمد عبد الكريم عثمان باحسين	المكلا - حضرموت	الكلية الوطنية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا
١١٨- طارق حين مبارك بلجون	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم والتكنولوجيا	١٧٧- ماهر شريف إسماعيل	كريتر - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١١٩- حسيب عبد الله حسن شمسان	كريتر - عدن	العلوم	١٧٨- أمين سعيد ديان	القطن - حضرموت	التربية
١٢٠- أحمد مبارك أحمد بامحرز	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم	١٧٩- راسل غيير محمد شعوب	الشعب - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٢١- فتحي سيف علي شمسان	التواهي - عدن	الشرعية	١٨٠- محمد صالح أحمد باشنين	تريم - حضرموت	التربية
١٢٢- عدني رمضان سعيد الجبير	المكلا - حضرموت	الشرعية	١٨١- علم الدين عبد الله مصطفى	كريتر - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٢٣- فوزي محمد أحمد باسلامة	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم	١٨٢- محمد بن محمد عبد القوي شميري	كريتر - عدن	الهندسة
١٢٤- فؤاد سعيد أبو بكر بادغيش	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم	١٨٣- سلوان أحمد عبد الله محمد	عدن - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٢٥- جلال محمد إسماعيل مقبل	الضالع - لحج	الشرعية	١٨٤- ناصر علوي عمر حسين	خور مكسر - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٢٦- مناف مصطفى يوسف	الضالع - لحج	الشرعية	١٨٥- لؤي عبد الله محبوب مبروك	الحوطة - لحج	الشرعية والقانون
١٢٧- عواد علي شائع	خور مكسر - عدن	التربية	١٨٦- خالد علي محمد	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	الآداب
١٢٨- زياد طارق سالم	كريتر - عدن	الآداب	١٨٧- طارق محمد عبد الله التهامي	المعلا - عدن	الآداب
١٢٩- هوش منه أحمد صالح الخضر	خور مكسر - عدن	الطب	١٨٨- خالد عبد الشيخ سعيد	كريتر - عدن	الهندسة
١٣٠- أنور محمد مهدي ناصر	خور مكسر - عدن	التجارة	١٨٩- علي علوان علي بن علي	طور الباحة - لحج	التربية
١٣١- جمال برهان محمد	المعلا - عدن	التجارة	١٩٠- رضوان علي ناصر أبو بكر	الحوطة - لحج	الطب
١٣٢- راجي أحمد علي صالح	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	التجارة	١٩١- بسام أحمد عبد الجبار	كريتر - عدن	الآداب
١٣٣- رضاء علي سالم باسيف	المكلا - حضرموت	العلوم	١٩٢- عادل عبد الجبار مصطفى	كريتر - عدن	الآداب
١٣٤- عبد الله فاروق عثمان	المعلا - عدن	الشرعية	١٩٣- خالد عبد الله سالمين بن سرور	الشحر - حضرموت	التجارة
١٣٥- مروان محمد علي محسن	الضالع - لحج	التجارة	١٩٤- محمد صالح محمد باشطح	الغيل - حضرموت	التجارة
١٣٦- سام أحمد علي حسين	صيرا - عدن	التجارة	١٩٥- أحمد صالح محمد باشطح	الغيل - حضرموت	التجارة
١٣٧- مناف سعيد نايف صالح	الشعب - عدن	الهندسة	١٩٦- رائد علي محمد الحوتري	التواهي - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٣٨- خالد محمد حسن غالب	الضالع - لحج	التربية	١٩٧- خالد حسن علوي السقاف	خور مكسر - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٣٩- حافظ محمد سالم شيخ	لودر - أبين	الدبلوم التربوي المتوسط	١٩٨- هشام أمين عبد الله الزبيدي	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	الشرعية والقانون
١٤٠- وليد عبد الملك عبده	المعلا - عدن	الآداب	١٩٩- أديب فيصل محمد خليفة	الشيخ عثمان - عدن	التجارة
١٤١- قاسم محمد عبد الله عبد الرب	كريتر - عدن	الشرعية			



GUERRE

Lakhdar Ibrahimimi reconnaît l'échec de sa médiation

Les combats ont repris de plus belle sur tous les fronts après l'échec de la médiation de Lakhdar Ibrahimimi. L'envoyé spécial des Nations Unies n'a pas obtenu des deux belligérants un accord pour superviser un cessez-le-feu.

La mission de Lakhdar Ibrahimimi, l'envoyé spécial des Nations Unies au Yémen, avait fait naître un timide espoir. Mais après douze jours de discussions, à Sanaa, Mukalla et dans les pays voisins du Golfe, Lakhdar Ibrahimimi n'a pas réussi à réunir au Caire dimanche 19 juin les belligérants pour fixer un mécanisme de contrôle d'un cessez-le-feu. Des émissaires des dirigeants sudistes et nordistes sont bien venus dans la capitale égyptienne mais ils ont refusé de se rencontrer.

Des positions irréconciliables

Les positions des deux camps semblent irréconciliables. Les nordistes considèrent que le conflit est "une affaire interne" tandis que les sudistes réclament la médiation des pays arabes. Lakhdar Ibrahimimi a donc reconnu l'échec de sa mission. Lors de sa visite la semaine dernière

au Qatar, Abdul Wahab Al-Ansi, vice-Premier ministre nordiste (parti Islah), a écarté l'idée que l'envoyé spécial des Nations Unies "revienne maintenant dans la région".

Cinquante-quatre jours après le début de la guerre, les combats ne semblent donc pas prêts de cesser au Yémen. Ils ont même repris de plus belle après l'échec de la rencontre du Caire. Vendredi 24 juin, Boutros Boutros Ghali, secrétaire général des Nations Unies a rencontré à New-York Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, ministre nordiste de la Planification. Il a décerné un blâme aux nordistes et leur a demandé de cesser immédiatement les bombardements sur Aden. Depuis une semaine, les troupes nordistes mènent une offensive sur la ville. Le journal Al Raï al-Am, publié à Sanaa, a estimé dans son dernier numéro que les forces nordistes "doivent entrer à Aden et Mukalla à n'importe quel prix, même s'il faut sacrifier un million de martyrs".

Dans la grande ville du sud, prise en tenaille par les forces nordistes (lire ci-contre l'histoire de la ville), les hôpitaux regorgent de blessés, tandis que la population est passée de 500 à 700 000 habitants, gonflée par les réfugiés fuyant devant l'avancée nordiste. Abdulrahman Al-Jifri, vice-Président de la République autoproclamée du Sud, a appelé aux dons de sang. En une semaine, les tirs d'artillerie ont fait plus de 100 morts et près de 400 blessés, notamment parmi les civils. Les tirs visent tous les quartiers d'Aden, jusqu'à Crater, où un civil a été blessé par un obus tombé mardi dernier. Les leaders sudistes ont décidé de payer des dédommagements aux familles des victimes: 50 000 rials aux familles des personnes décédées et 25 000 rials pour celles des blessés.

Réunion des pays arabes

De leur côté, les troupes d'Ali Salem Al-Bid ont lancé dimanche 19 juin un raid aérien sur Mokha, avec pour objectif la centrale électrique. Le bilan fait état de 17 morts et 33 blessés et les coupures de courant ont repris dans le nord du pays. La centrale de Mokha, avec celle de Ras Katanib près d'Hoddeidah, fournit l'essentiel de l'électricité au nord.

Parallèlement, nordistes et sudistes poursuivent une activité diplomatique intense. La semaine dernière, Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, membre du Conseil présidentiel à Sanaa, s'est rendu au Caire puis en Syrie, tandis que les sudistes

envoient Salem Salch dans les pays du Maghreb, puis en Syrie. L'Arabie saoudite essaie de son côté de rallier à sa cause les pays du Maghreb. Le prince Saoud al-Fayçal, chef de la diplomatie saoudienne, a été reçu jeudi dernier par le roi Hassan II du Maroc. Par ailleurs, les huit pays arabes

signataires de la "Déclaration de Damas" (Egypte, Syrie, Arabie saoudite, Koweït, Bahreïn, Emirats arabes unis, Oman et Qatar) ont décidé de se rencontrer aujourd'hui et demain, les 27 et 28 juin, à Koweït, pour discuter notamment du conflit yéménite. De son côté, le secrétaire général

de la Ligue arabe, Esmat Abdel Meguib, a affirmé qu'une éventuelle séparation du Yémen du Sud "doit être agréée par les deux parties" pour pouvoir être légalisée. Ali Abdallah Saleh n'est semble-t-il pas prêt de l'accepter.

Jérôme BERNARD

Histoire d'une gloire perdue

Bombardée tous les jours par les forces nordistes, la ville d'Aden souffre particulièrement de la guerre, alors que la vie est redevenue quasiment normale à Sanaa.

Depuis des siècles, le site d'Aden attire les convoitises: les Portugais, les Ottomans et les Britanniques ont été intéressés par la position stratégique du port. Les Anglais s'installent en 1839 à Aden, qui devient une escale pour la marine britannique sur la route des Indes. Aden, alors, n'était qu'un modeste village. Grâce à l'arrivée d'Indiens et d'Européens, la ville se développe rapidement. Son cosmopolitisme tranche avec l'arrière-pays arabe, qui lui tourne résolument le dos. La population d'Aden passe ainsi de 1289 habitants en 1839 à 16 450 en 1842. En 1869, les Anglais font l'acquisition de la presqu'île de Little Aden. L'agglomération d'Aden se transforme en véritable forteresse à la fin du 19e siècle au point que les commerçants se plaignent d'être gênés dans leurs activités commerciales par les militaires, alors que

depuis l'ouverture du canal de Suez en 1869, le trafic du port ne cesse d'augmenter.

4ème port pétrolier du monde en 1964

Pour protéger Aden, les Anglais négocièrent divers accords avec les principautés arabes et l'arrière-pays et signèrent des traités de protectorat avec les souverains établis le long de la côte. La ville et ses environs formaient une colonie de la Couronne britannique, rattachée directement à partir de 1937 au Colonial office de Londres.

Au lendemain de la Seconde guerre mondiale, Aden connaît une période de prospérité sans précédent et affirme encore davantage son rôle de première base militaire anglaise au Moyen-Orient. Port international sans rival entre Bombay et Suez, Aden ravitaillait en carburant et en provisions les cargos et les paquebots. En 1964, Aden était le quatrième port pétrolier du monde.

L'indépendance en 1967 met fin à 128 ans de présence bri-

tannique. Le départ d'une partie de la bourgeoisie et la fermeture du canal de Suez après la guerre des Six jours plonge la ville dans un profond marasme. Le trafic du port est considérablement ralenti, le mouvement tombe de 6416 navires en 1964 à 1613 en 1970. La réouverture du canal de Suez en 1975 ne redonnera pas au port l'importance qu'il avait avant 1967. Les dirigeants qui choisissent la voie du socialisme isolent le pays de l'extérieur. La lutte entre fractions du parti socialiste qui aboutit à la guerre civile de 1986 accroît la décrépitude de la ville.

En 1990, les Adeni espèrent beaucoup de l'unification, Aden étant déclarée capitale économique. Mais en quatre ans, le projet de zone franche n'a jamais vu le jour. Aujourd'hui, la guerre, avec son cortège de destructions, est le coup de grâce porté à une ville qui n'en avait pas besoin.

J.B.

Source: Encyclopédie Universalis.

Aide humanitaire: Les réfugiés somaliens du camp d'Al-Koud dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan, qui s'étaient dispersés dans des villages voisins pour échapper aux combats, ont été regroupés par le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés sur un site entre Shuqra et Lawdar dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan. D'autre part, les organisations humanitaires doivent faire face à une épidémie de diarrhées dans la région de Zinjibar parmi la population yéménite.

Redressement moral: Les autorités de Sanaa ont fait détruire publiquement jeudi des centaines de bouteilles d'Eau de Cologne dans le wadi Sailah. Aux cris de "Allah Akbar" proférés par quelques badauds atterrés, des militaires projetaient les bouteilles contre les berges en pierres. Cette Eau de Cologne, dont le degré d'alcool titre 75°, était destinée à quelques "mauvais musulmans", alors que la consommation d'alcool est interdite au nord du Yémen.

A NOS LECTEURS

Voilà, c'est fini ! Les pages françaises du Yemen Times vont être interrompues la semaine prochaine. Ce numéro est donc le dernier dans lequel vous pourrez lire la langue de Molière. Nous espérons que l'avenir permettra une reprise éventuelle. Nous vous remercions pour le soutien que vous nous avez apporté depuis la création des pages françaises, il y a deux ans et demi, en octobre 1991. Nous avons pu apprécier la liberté qui nous était accordée dans le cadre de l'expérience démocratique menée par le Yémen. Malgré les vicissitudes de l'actualité, nous croyons toujours à la liberté d'expression et au rôle de la presse dans le débat démocratique. La page est tournée.

Vive la liberté de la presse !

Le rédacteur des pages françaises.

LITTÉRATURE

D'Orient et d'Occident

par Jean Moncelon*

Aux origines yéménites de la poésie courtoise en France et en Italie.

On appelle poésie courtoise, la poésie amoureuse de langue d'Oc (sud de la France) des XIIe-XIIIe siècles, représentée - pour ne citer que les poètes les plus connus de ce temps - par Guillaume d'Aquitaine, Jaufre Rudel et Bertran de Born: "Nul ne peut m'y secourir/ Sauf Elle, gaie et courtoise/ Que tant j'aime et je chéris..." Or, c'est à une tradition poétique arabe, qui connut, elle, son essor au VIIIe siècle, que la poésie courtoise doit sa principale source d'inspiration: moins les thèmes, comme l'échange des coeurs ou le secret, moins quelques formes métriques qui ont cheminé à travers l'Andalousie, qu'un certain idéal de beauté féminine ainsi qu'une conception noble et généreuse de l'amour - qu'on nomme la fin'amor. ("L'amour partagé s'entoure du plus grand secret, se replie sur le pur échange mutuel des paroles et des gestes dans lesquels il tend à son épanouissement.")

La fin'amor apparaît ainsi comme la résurgence au XIIe siècle, dans le Sud de la France, de "l'idéal que la poésie arabe primitive s'est formé de

l'amour": le hubb 'udhri - né parmi les Banû 'Udhra, cette tribu arabe où l'on pensait que "mourir d'amour est une douce et noble mort". A l'origine lointaine de la poésie courtoise se trouveraient donc les poèmes de 'Urwât 'Afrâ et de Djamil al 'Udhri. En d'autres termes, le Souffle du Yémen serait passé jusqu'en Occitanie.

Majnûn et Layla

Et cela n'a rien de surprenant, puisque, selon la critique arabe classique, l'amour udhrite a ses racines au Yémen: "Le caractère profondément religieux du Yémen - écrivait Louis Massignon - rattacherait cet amour à un "archétype" de l'inconscient profond de la plupart des tribus primitives de l'humanité: l'élection à une vie religieuse sacrifiée par l'apparition survenue d'une "âme-soeur"; cette "âme-soeur" (...) a son plus parfait symbole dans ce parfum consacré à l'adoration que, de toute antiquité, le Yémen seul a toujours fourni aux temples (Reine de Saba), jusqu'aux Indes: l'encens" (Passion, I, 397).

Parmi les couples qui ont illustré l'amour udhrite, le plus célèbre - au-delà même des frontières du monde arabe - est assurément celui de Kays et de Layla (L'amour-poème): "J'aspire au paradis de ton visage/ Mais ce jardin de la beauté/ Reste une lune lointaine". Voici, en résumé, son histoire: Après le mariage de Layla dont il s'était épris et qui l'aimait, Kays perd la raison, part vivre dans le désert, parmi les bêtes sauvages, refusant toute nourriture. On ne l'appellera plus que Majnûn (le fou d'amour - cf. Aragon, Le fou d'Elsa). Il renoncera même à la présence de Layla, dès lors que l'image de beauté qu'il s'en est faite aura bientôt plus de réalité que Layla elle-même.

L'amour exemplaire de Kays a inspiré de nombreux récits, dont Farhâd et Shirîn, en Perse; il a été aussi longuement médité par les poètes musulmans - profanes, tel Ibn Dâwûd au IXe siècle, qui en restera à la "mort d'amour", - et spirituels, comme ceux qui se rattachent en Orient à l'ordre des Fidèles d'Amour.

C'est en Italie, vers le milieu

du XIIIe siècle, qu'une autre résurgence de l'amour udhrite va donner naissance à un courant poétique nouveau - le dolce stil nuovo - dont les préoccupations spirituelles paraissent singulièrement proches de celles des poètes arabes et surtout persans (Hafez Shîrazî, Rûzbehân Baqli Shîrazî).

Les Fedeli d'Amore

Les Fedeli d'Amore - comme on les appelait - dont Dante fut un temps le maître spirituel - ont repris les principaux thèmes de l'amour udhrite, mais en les renouvelant, et en évitant tout particulièrement l'écueil de cette "mort d'amour" (prise au sens littéral) qui sanctionnait, chez Ibn Dâwûd, par exemple, la contemplation de la beauté.

Pour les Fedeli d'Amore, il ne s'agit pas seulement de contempler dans le secret du coeur le visage de l'aimée - et d'en mourir (comme Majnûn) -, mais de découvrir derrière son voile de Beauté, un autre visage: celui de l'Ange. C'est ainsi que les poètes de l'Ordre parlent de l'Ange de leur destinée comme d'une Jeune

Fille yéménite (le Yémen signifiant, dans un sens métaphysique, le monde de l'Ange).

Il y a loin de la contemplation stérile d'un Ibn Dâwûd ou de la renonciation de Hallâj à tout visage de beauté!

Depuis des siècles, l'ordre des Fedeli d'Amore est rentré dans la clandestinité - et pourtant l'amour udhrite continue de nourrir l'inspiration de certains poètes contemporains. On pense au Château cathare de Jean Malrieu ainsi qu'à l'admirable récit poétique d'André Miquel, Layla ma raison.)

Il faut croire que, siècle après siècle, un même printemps de l'Esprit fait revivre en quelques "coeurs sincères" l'idéal des Banû 'Udhra, et même, parfois, la tradition "occultée" des Fedeli d'Amore - y compris à notre époque, mais sous sa forme parodique, lorsque, dans les antichambres de l'enfer, certaine jeunesse sacrifie au culte des "Nuits fauves".

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"Total supply of foodstuffs in Yemen is more than the demand."

Mr. Ali Mohammad Al-Mutawakkel, Director-General of Trade and Supplies, Sanaa Office, is at the head of a team working overtime to make sure there is adequate supply for the residents of the capital city. He is faced with a Herculean task. Not only are there problems of logistics, especially transportation and storage facilities, but there are major problems of corruption and inefficiency. Then there is the war atmosphere which makes citizens store goods and products more than their immediate needs.

To shed light on the food supply situation, Al-Izzy Al-Selwi of Yemen Times met with Mr. Al-Mutawakkel and filed the following interview:



Q. To start with, tell us something about the role of your office under the current exceptional situation.

A. Before the announcement of the law of emergency, this office was concerned with three commodities: wheat, flour, and rice. But since the outbreak of the war the Ministry of Trade and Supply began a program to stabilize the prices of all foodstuffs and many important consumer goods. This is mainly to stop any exploitation by the merchants and other retail traders of the situation. Supervision and control of price-levels is on day and night in the capital city. Any violation is treated mercilessly.

It is natural that some people will try to exploit the situation for their own benefit, but we are there to protect the citizens and consumers from any the greed of merchants and other dealers.

Q: But basically, prices tend to go up if supplies are short. You as a graduate of economics know this. Do you have enough supplies to satisfy demand

levels and thus effectively control prices?

A: Regarding the commodities, there might be some bottlenecks or a sort of a crisis. The bottlenecks, however, are not due to shortage of supplies, but due to inadequacies in transport and storage facilities. Technically, therefore, total supplies for most of the foodstuffs exceed demand levels. The problem is getting the supplies where they are needed. At the moment, most of the supplies are stocked in the harbor of Hodeidah.

Q. We have heard that two vessels carrying wheat are on the way. Are you still importing?

A. In fact, they are four and not two vessels which have just anchored to unload wheat supplies. I would like to stress that sufficient quantities of wheat and flour are available. We are working night and day to distribute the supplies.

Q. We have seen, near your office, a truck loaded with wheat taken under your custody by your men. What is the problem with it?

A. This is a case of a violation in point. We have caught this trucker trafficking wheat for sale at exorbitant prices. He has been apprehended, and now he is subject to the legal penalties.

Q. What about the shops that were closed during the Eid El-Fitr vacation?

A. This is not something new to our people. Most of the residents in Sanaa are of rural origin. So on national and religious occasions, a large part of the population of our cities, but especially Sanaa, return to their villages. That is why many shops are closed during the holidays, but especially during the last one. As a result, many of the services are disrupted, and the citizens suffer a lot for the nuisance and the complications which lead to higher prices.

Q. Your role, notwithstanding, one can't deny the continued rise in the cost of living. How do you respond to that?

A. Any violator apprehended is detained, fined and penalized; sometimes even sent to prison. The punishment might also mean closing down his shop or cancellation of the registration and commercial permit.

Q. Any last comments?

A. We are all responsible and the violations will affect us all. What we need is the cooperation of all the citizens to overcome this problem. Let me use this opportunity to offer an extension to the earlier question. To bring the situation under control, the citizens have to help the authorities. If the citizens let their rights be eroded and taken away, then we have a hard time pinning down the violators. Another think is panic. The citizens panic quickly and we see them hoard and store supplies beyond reason.

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The Right to Response to a Rebuttal: About the History of Swiss Democracy

In the Yemen Times of 20th June, the newspaper published a letter from Gian Monsch, claiming that Switzerland has been a democracy since 1291. Today, Switzerland is certainly one of the two most democratic countries in the world.

In Switzerland, direct democracy permits every citizen to contribute to every government decision and thus it is arguably the most democratic. The citizens are however limited by the constitution, and thus the United Kingdom -- which has no constitution -- could be equally plausibly designated the most democratic.

In any case however, Monsch was not referring to the existing state created by the 1848 constitution, but to arrangements made for an insurrection within the Habsburg Empire, allegedly quoting a 13th century document relating to this. The actual document in question has not been found, and the document cited is one written at the beginning of the 14th century AD, which refers to an earlier agreement of 1291. The agreement was a mutual defence pact made between various cantons governed by a bourgeois and rural aristocracies. Although certain parts of Switzerland may have been "democratic" in orientation, this word cannot be applied to the entire federation until very recently. To take just a few examples, until 1815, the present day canton of Ticino was a colony of German-speaking cantons North of the Alps (Zurich, Schaffhausen, etc.). Until 1832 Basle-country was basically a colony of Basel-City, which was itself ruled by the Bishops and then the Trade Guilds long after the Middle Ages were over. Until 1848, the canton of Valais was governed by a German-speaking minority which suppressed the French speaking majority, and it was only with the introduction of the 1848 constitution that some form of democracy was enforced across the borders of present day Swit-

zerland, although women only received the right to vote in federal elections in the last quarter of the 20th century AD and it was virtually the last decade of the 20th century AD before they received the right to vote in all local elections. In fact, until the Treaty of Vienna of 1815, Switzerland was not a country, but a series of loose military alliances. Unfortunately I don't have any history books with me, so I cannot go into detail, but I think that some Swiss history would perhaps be interesting to Yemenis today.

Today Switzerland is the richest country in the industrialized world, and one of the two most democratic in the world (and the cleanest to boot). But it does not have any natural resources except water and the Swiss people: they have made the country what it is. At the beginning of the 20th century it was one of the poorest countries in Europe. At the beginning of the 19th century it was occupied by the French Army, and the last war fought on Swiss soil was between the French and Russian armies. The Swiss have learned the lesson of letting foreign parties interfere in their affairs, and have learnt that civil war only weakens the country, but it has not been an easy lesson. They have also learnt that working together democratically and federally can make everyone in the country wealthy, but it was not always that way.

If you go to the Federal Archive in Schwyz, where some important historical agreements of Swiss history are on display (including the one mentioned above), you can look at the documents themselves in showcases in the middle of the room, and can look at the flags of the various cantons displayed on the walls. It looks as if it is a show of unity and historical destiny. If you look carefully at the labels of flags, you will however find that virtually every one of them was captured

by the army of the canton of Schwyz during one of the many civil wars that the country has endured. Some years ago Schwyz lent the canton of Zurich the oldest existing flag of Zurich -- on display in the Federal Archive -- and it was brought back to Zurich for a temporary display: the first time it returned to Zurich in almost 500 years. And when the exhibition was over, the flag was returned to its rightful owner: the canton of Schwyz, for it was booty won in one of the battles at the time of the Reformation.

In that room is another of the most important documents in Swiss history: the Stanser Agreement, signed around the beginning of the 16th century. Until then, Switzerland was not really a state, but a military alliance with permanent members with divergent interests, formed to protect the rights of the various cantons (not the citizens) against beligerent and powerful neighbours. One of those alliances in the 15th century resulted in the defeat and death of Charles the Bold of Burgundy. In this war, Basle aided the Swiss, and the Swiss came to the succour of Basle, but Basle was only an ally, and after the war was won, the members of the Swiss Confederation and their allies almost fell into the anarchy of desperate civil war: because of a dispute about the distribution of the booty won in the war! The miracle settlement of the Stanser Agreement prevented the civil war, but only because a silent monk came out of the mountains and -- speaking for the first time in decades -- explained to the participants that they were maniacs to behave in such a fashion. Given such advice, the politicians came to reason, and signed an agreement that made Switzerland far more than it was before the dispute, so that progress emerged instead of catastrophe.

The unity of Switzerland today depends upon mutual respect and expediency. Everyone realizes

that every citizen benefits if the confederation continues to serve their interests, and their interests are very disparate. The many civil wars reveal that, but also that the Swiss have learned that it is more important to support the Confederation, to defend themselves from outside enemies. There is no question that the Swiss Army deterred Nazi Germany from attacking the country. The army itself is organized along cantonal lines, each soldier serving his community, and the state (for Switzerland is not a nation). The army does not have the most modern equipment, and its soldiers are militiamen who serve only when the borders are threatened. The cantons could effectively wage war against one another, but loyalty to the state prevents them from falling into civil war today, as they have learned that this only impoverishes the country and benefits foreign powers.

Yemen has also experienced many civil wars since Karabil Water of Saba conquered the kingdom of Awsan more than 2500 years ago. It has also experienced foreign invasion, with the Ethiopians, Persians, Fatimids, Ayyubids, Turks and British conquering parts of the country. Perhaps Yemen can learn the lessons that the Swiss took almost as long to learn: that the people are the wealth of the country, and that small countries with powerful neighbours need to solve their internal disputes quietly. Yemen has also accomplished miracles before, especially in the last few years.

By: David Warburton

David is the Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, but this article represents his own views and does not necessarily reflect those of the Institute.

Black Disease or Kala-azar

By: Dr. Abdul-Latif Molan,
Head of the Parasitology Department,
Faculty of Medicine,
University of Sanaa.

Leishmania donovani, the causative agent of Kala-azar, was first demonstrated by William Leishman in 1900 in smears from the spleen of an English soldier who died of fever near Calcutta, India. The disease, which is also named as visceral leishmaniasis, is widely known by its Indian name: kala-azar.

The disease has an extensive distribution and a wide variety of clinical forms. There are, however, three main epidemiologic patterns:

1) The classic kala-azar of Indian which affects chiefly adults; does not occur in dogs, and has no non-human reservoir host.

2) The Mediterranean or infantile kala-azar which has sporadic occurrences among children throughout the Mediterranean countries, the Middle East, China, and Central and South America; it occurs frequently among dogs, and has wild reservoir hosts notably among jackals and possibly foxes.

3) The Sudanese kala-azar affects adults and is somewhat resistant to antimony treatment, and has rats, ground squirrels and gerbils as reservoirs.

Transmission occurs when an infected sandfly bites a susceptible host. In the fly, the promastigotes (the flagellated stage) develop first in the midgut and then migrate forward to the foregut and proboscis. There they become so numerous that some of them are swept down the proboscis when the insect feeds and ejects saliva into the puncture (the parasites do not invade the salivary gland of the fly). They then enter, or are ingested by, macrophages. They remain within phagosomes but, in some way which is not understood, resist digestion by the lysosomal enzymes and so survive to trans-



Dr. Molan

form into amastigotes, it ruptures and the parasites emerge to re-enter other nearby macrophages (see fig.1). Some parasites enter macrophages which circulate in the blood (monocytes) and thus infect sandflies which feed subsequently. In its tissue relations in man and most susceptible laboratory animals, *L. Donovani* has a predilection for the reticuloendothelial cells (REC) of the spleen, liver, bone marrow, and visceral lymph nodes.

The onset of the disease is gradual, after an incubation period that may vary between 2 weeks and 18 months. Frequently the patient may present with a complaint of abdominal swelling, which has taken place without any definite illness. On examination, hepatomegaly and splenomegaly are found. Sometimes there is acute onset, which may closely mimic an attack of malaria, even to the tertian or quartan periodicity. There is sometimes diarrhea and an onset resembling typhoid fever. Fever may be continuous, intermittent or remittent, and recur at irregular intervals. Anemia is generally present. There is progressive weight loss as the disease pursues its course. The body becomes emaciated, with the abdomen hugely swollen by the enlarged liver and spleen (see fig.2).

A condition known as dermal leishmanoid (post kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis) is sometimes seen in patients who have been treated for visceral leishmaniasis and may

occur in persons who deny any history of disease. The dermal lesions may be erythematous or depigmented macules, distributed over the entire body or in patches (see fig.3). Later the lesions tend to become nodular and at this stage may be mistaken for leprosy nodules.

Patients require bedrest during the acute disease, as well as a well-balanced high-protein and high-vitamin diet, good nursing care, and auxiliary treatment with appropriate antibiotics for secondary bacterial infections, such as bronchopneumonia and diarrhea. The pentavalent antimonials are the standard chemotherapeutic agents. Sodium antimony gluconate (pentostam), 600 mg intramuscularly or intravenously daily for 6 to 10 days, may be repeated in resistant cases. Pentamidine should be used for failures with antimony.

The only effective means of prevention are protection from sandfly bites and elimination of infected dogs in areas where they serve as reservoir hosts. Sandflies are so small that they can penetrate many mosquito nets.

It is very important to mention that kala-azar is prevalent in most of the provinces in Yemen especially in children (see fig.2).

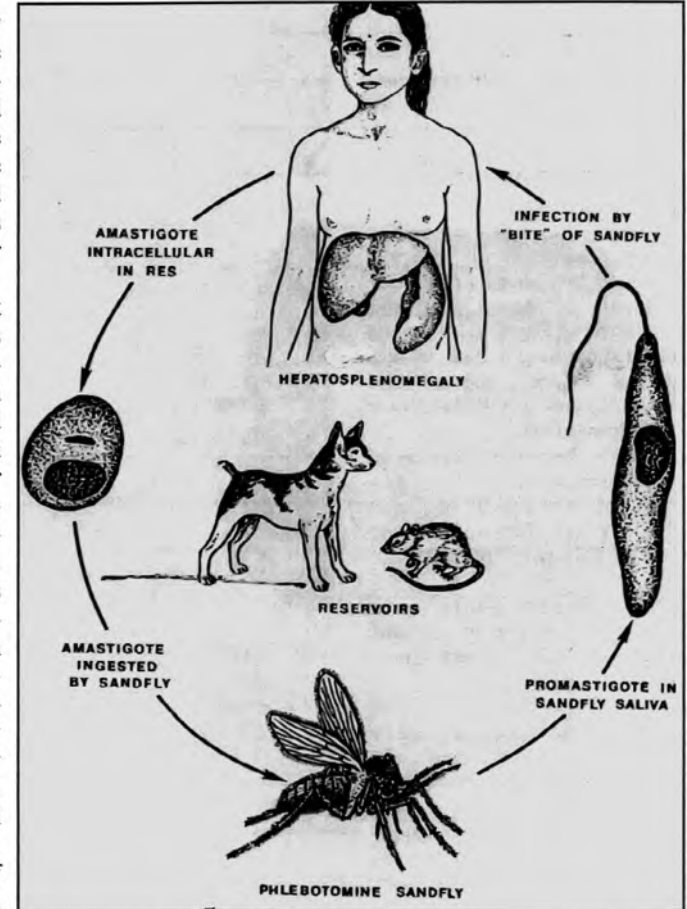


Figure 1: Life Cycle of *Leishmania Donovanii*



Figure 2: Yemeni (Al-Haima) Children Suffering from kala-azar. Note the bulging stomach.

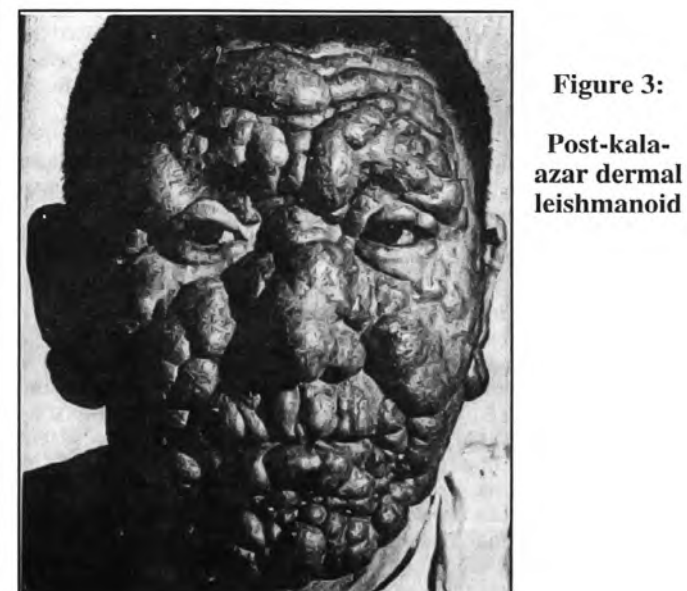


Figure 3:
Post-kala-azar dermal leishmanoid

عيد ميلاد سعيد ياساره



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وجميع سكان عمارة (1) في مساكن أساتذة الجامعة

WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION IN EASTERN YEMEN

By: M.C. Jennings,
Yemen Update,
Winter/Spring 1994.

From the creation of the peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in 1967, to the time of its union with the Yemen Arab Republic in May 1990, it was generally very difficult for Western naturalists to visit the country. This country has been known colloquially as "South Yemen", but this is a misnomer, because on average, South Yemen was further north than North Yemen (YAR). Now that the two countries are joined I prefer to use the term "Eastern Yemen" to refer to the former South Yemen (PDRY). Although the country was barred to the west for so long a number of scientists from Eastern Europe did visit the region and have published their results. Notable among these was an important survey of the flora and fauna of the Socotra Island in the early 1980s by a combined East German and Aden University team, led by Dr. Wranik. In recent years a trickle of Western Scientists has been able to visit the country. Among the first of these was the ornithologist Dr. John Ash, who visited Aden and nearby areas in 1984 under UNEP sponsorship to study the serious pest status of the introduced INDIAN HOUSE CROW *Corvus splendens* (Ash, 1984; Ash, 1988). That study resulted in a control program, commencing in 1986, which by May 1989 had eliminated 241,000 crows in the Aden Governorate area alone (Jennings, in press). The crow has been greatly reduced in numbers but is still a serious pest. Other more recent visitors have included Dr. Anthony Miller of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh, and Luigi Guarino, UN/FAO, who studied the botany of Socotra and the extreme eastern part of Yemen, as well as collecting plant specimens for the FLORA OF ARABIA project. I was fortunate to be able to visit eastern Yemen for three weeks in October and November 1989 for the purpose of a survey for the ATLAS OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF ARABIA project. My subsidiary tasks included a follow-up study to the Ash report on the Indian House Crow and local crow control programs, and to look into the possibility of the Ornithological Society of the Middle East mounting a full scale survey of the country. In comparison with many other parts of Arabia, where over-grazing, deforestation, erosion and pollution present serious problems, the environment of eastern Yemen was in a relatively healthy state. One reason for this might have been that no financial encouragement was paid to bedouin to increase the size to increase the size of their flocks, nor any subsidy to pay for grain during periods when there was little grazing. This means that, unlike the situation in the more prosperous states of Arabia, the rangelands hold no more stock than they can naturally support. Where the bedouin are given subsidized grain, the higher population of animals means, inevitably, that over-grazing occurs. With the fewer bedouin in the desert as a result, secondary effects such as cutting down of trees for firewood is less pronounced. Native charcoal burning was noted in some areas but a much greater impact was made by commercial lime kilns which

required large quantities of wood. Fortunately, most of the wood being burned appeared to be the introduced MESQUITE *Prosopis juliflora*. In the latter years of the PDRY administration the authorities banned the use of persistent pest control agent such as aldrin and dieldrin, mainly as a result of World Bank pressure. Agricultural specialists told me that this results in a problem with some crop pests as alternative pesticides were not always effective. Physical pollution by domestic rubbish was much less apparent in eastern Yemen than elsewhere in Arabia. This was because the country was relatively poor and underdeveloped; the variety and quantity of imported foods (and their wrappings), and consumer goods were at much lower levels. The coast was noticeably oil-free and largely clear of domestic refuse. Large mammals, especially carnivores, are good indicators of the health of the environment. It is clear that the status of predators in eastern Yemen is at least as good as any other parts of Arabia, although there is still considerable cause for concern. In a short specialized survey such as my own I could not hope to survey carnivores, but reports and notes I collected are encouraging. WOLF *Canis lupus* and STRIPED HYAENA *Hyaena hyaena* were reported to be common, from the edge of the Empty Quarter to just outside Aden. CARACAL LYNX *Caracal caracal* has been recorded recently from over a wide area from near the Dhofar border in the east, to the border with the former North Yemen in the west. The HONEY BADGER or RATEL *Mellivora capensis* and RED FOX *Vulpes vulpes* also occur widely. The ARABIAN LEOPARD *Panthera pardus* survives and at least four individuals are known to have been shot in the last few years, indicating the species occurs quite widely. Much of eastern Yemen is remote and mountainous, very suited to the leopard. There have been no recent reports of the ASIATIC JACKAL *Canis aureus*, but I was informed of an intriguing, unconfirmed, reference to a possible CHEETAH *Acinonix jubatus* sighting in the mid 1980s. (one of the last verified cheetah records came from eastern Yemen, 80 km NW of Habarut, in March 1963, Harrison, 1972). Ungulates include the IDMI (MOUNTAIN GAZELLE) *Gazella gazella* and the Rheem (ARABIAN GZELLA) *GAZELLA subgutturosa* which reported in 1989 from several localities. I was able to establish that IBEX *Capra ibex* was still widespread in eastern Yemen, especially in the Wadi Hadhramaut area, the eastern border near Oman and in the coastal mountains near Mukalla. However, everyone I questioned agreed that it was very much reduced in numbers over the last ten years. Like all large mammals in Arabia, the ibex is susceptible to hunting pressure and in a country where the Bedouin often have sub-machine guns, Key species like this are badly in need of protection through the establishment of effective observation laws and reserves. Other interesting large mammals include PORCUPINE *Hystrix indica*, which is widespread, and HAMADRYAS BABOON *Popio hamadryas*, limited to the western mountains where, as elsewhere in south west Arabia,

they are a serious crop pest. The border area with eastern Yemen with Saudi Arabia and Oman was the last refuge of the southern population of the ARABIAN OSTRICH *Struthio camelus syriacus*. The last were probably hunted in this area as late as 1920-30 (Jennings, 1986) although, even today whole eggs can be found in sand dunes in this area (Walker, 1981; Gallagher, 1988). Important bird species in eastern Yemen, in terms of their rarity in Arabia, include the HOUBARA BUSTARD *Chlamydotis undulata*, which is likely to breed in some parts of the country, ABDIM'S STORK *Ciconia abdimii* and BLACK-WINGED KITE *Elanus caeruleus*. All ten Arabian endemic landbird species occur in the border area with the former YAR. It may be possible that the houbara has a healthier population in Eastern Yemen than anywhere else in Arabia, both as a breeding bird and as a winter visitor, because organized no-expense-spared hunting parties, which have existed elsewhere in Arabia, have been absent from eastern Yemen. The ARABIAN BUSTARD *Ardeotis arabs* has not been seen in the country in recent years. Despite suggestions by Meinertzhagen (1954) the BALDIBIS *Geronticus eremita* was probably never a breeding bird in southern Arabia and has not been seen in eastern Yemen since his own record at Laudar in 1949. Vulture species are apparently on the decline in the area as elsewhere in Arabia (Jennings, 1988). Surprisingly I did not see a single GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus*, during my survey. The EGYPTIAN VULTURE was widespread, although apparently not so numerous as in former years. The LAPPET-FACED VULTURE, which is now known to breed over a large area of central Arabia, probably also occurs over much of eastern Yemen. I saw one on the edge of the Empty Quarter in November 1989, only the second record for the former PDRY. On the sandy coast near the border with Oman it was encouraging to see a large area completely covered by the nesting depressions of turtles (species not determined). I estimated that there were at least 500 turtle nesting depressions in this area, with no evidence of interference by local inhabitants. The sea yields an abundant fish crop to local fishermen. There appeared to be no infrastructure to freeze, process and transport fish crops, and fishing activities appeared mainly for sardines and white bait for the local economy, to be used for fertilizers and animal fodders. One part of the former PDRY where the flora and fauna are of special interest in Socotra island. Here, no less than five bird species are endemic, and all are poorly studied. These endemic birds are the SOCOTRA GRACKLE *Onychognathus frater*, SOCOTRA ROCK-BUNTING *Emberiza socotrans*, SOCOTRA SUNBIRDB *Nectarinia balfouri*, SOCOTRA WARBLER *Icana icana* and SOCOTRA CISTICOLA *Cisticola haestitata*. I was not able to visit Socotra myself but I will hopefully be included in the itinerary of the forthcoming OSME survey. Plants which are of special interest include the endangered BANKOUALE PALM *Livistona carinensis* which is known to occur only in three widely scattered populations, in Djibouti,



own visit. In 1989 environment and conservation-oriented legislation in the former PDRY was rudimentary and limited to two laws, one concerned the protection of plants, which includes control of tree felling, and another which banned hunting of birds and animals and the keeping of wild animals privately. These laws were largely ignored as there were only limited resources available for enforcement. Unfortunately, gun ownership is widespread in the traditional Arab love of *la chasse* is as strong as ever. However, the government at the time did have plans for more gun control and there was an increasing and encouraging tendency for the Bedouin to adopt a settled existence. Since unification with North Yemen in May 1990, presumably the respective environmental laws of the two countries would be rationalized but this will almost certainly be a low priority of the new government, which has many other pressing issues to rationalize. In late 1989 there were no protected areas in eastern Yemen other than some small fenced experimental areas to study plant regeneration for rangeland use. Perhaps the Bankouale palm grove of Wadi Hajar could be the first target for such a reserve, especially as the surrounding area is known to hold ibex, leopards, wolves, and other large mammals. In addition a Wildlife Research unit has recently been set up at Al Kod, in the Abyan Governorate, as part of the Research and Extension Department of the then PDRY Ministry of Agriculture. This boded well for future wildlife work in eastern Yemen, but recently, other priorities overwhelmed Yemeni politicians and planners.

Somalia, and Wadi Hajar in eastern Yemen. Until very recently, this palm tree was highly sought after by the local inhabitants in Wadi Hajar for roof timbers, because it is regarded as termite resistant. The stands of this palm in Wadi Hajar were very much under attack from builders until my visit in 1989, threatening to wipe out the total Arabian population of about

2,000 palms. When I visited the site there was no regeneration and suckers were burnt away to get to the main trunk. Fortunately the mamoor (village chief), following pleas and advice from visiting botanists, had agreed early in 1989, to place a ban on the felling and burning of this palm, and these measures appeared to have been remarkably effective by the time of my

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صنعا ء ت : ٢٤٠٧٠٢ ، ٢٤٠٩٥٢ : تلكس : ٢٧٨٠ ناچيل يمن فاكسميل : ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب : ٢٥٢٨
الحديدة ت : ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ : تلكس : ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل : ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب : ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت : ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ : تلكس : ٢٢٣٦٩ سيجان فاكسميل : ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب : ١٩٢٦
بورسودان ت : ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ : تلكس : ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب : ١٦٠

Kawkaban: A City Museum Awaits Development

Ancient seat of a kingdom, capital of a province until the republican revolution, and literally deserted since then, Kawkaban sits on the edge of a steep cliff (at the foot of which nestles Shibam), dominating the valleys and hills from beyond Thula to the plains of Sana'a. The town stretches along a ridge from a gate, Bab al-Hadid, that can be reached from Shibam by a stone path of steps carved out of the cliff.

The origins of Kawkaban go back to the Himyarites. The oldest part of the town, or what is left of it, coincides with the ancient stronghold referred to by al-Hamdani. An impregnable place until the advent of aeroplanes, Kawkaban was important for centuries as the capital of the imams of the same name. Shibam held many lands and important towns (including Hajjah, Tawila, Mahwit), and maintained its independence both from the imams of Sana'a and from the Turks until its capitulation during the second Turkish invasion. It was a strong-hold of the Republicans during the Civil War of 1962.

The destruction caused by war and abandonment has greatly ruptured the urban fabric of Kawkaban, but one can still see that large open spaces were included within the perimeter of the walls: in particular, a central square which has the main mosque as one point of reference and, as another, the administration house. This may have been due to the town's role as a refuge for nearby villages, one capable of resisting long sieges; hence, also the granary pits and cisterns able to support a population that might swell to three times its normal size.

The houses are sturdy, quadrangular sandstone constructions, three to four storeys high. Detached buildings in walled compounds are found, as are buildings with roof courts and light wells for the floors below, a feature that is also found in Thula, in the regions of Sa'ada, and Dhamar.

In the decoration of facades, elements appear that are of a tradition common to remote areas of the country (e.g. Khuban) such as friezes and flower-like inlays made with square stones



dispose as lozenges. The strongest designs, however, are part of a vocabulary that extends its influence all the way to Mahwit and has its most striking expression in Thula. The quality of the stone itself - sandstone with pink or grey tones - probably contributed to the comparative restraint of inlays around windows, friezes along the floor and roof lines, and fan-light designs. In more recent buildings, decorative treatment has strong affinities with the style current in Tawila. Some very good examples of plaster carving and woodwork in interiors were observed in the very dilapidated houses of the imam.

The market, which is of fair size and multi-linear, widens as soon as the walled precinct encircling the gate is crossed, and narrows as it

approaches the square and the mosque. At the eastern end of the town is a luster of small houses and an isolated row of market stalls, now abandoned, but formerly served the Jewish community, at a walking distance of some 20 minutes from the town.

The recent opening of a motor-road to Kawkaban and the introduction of modern utilities (electricity, telephone, but not as yet, piped water) are causing an increase in new construction, in some cases, super-imposed on the old structures. Some of the old houses have been externally plastered, apparently to consolidate loose stones, with green-dyed cement. A new school was built in the stretch of the square adjoining the main mosque, obscuring the former relation of the

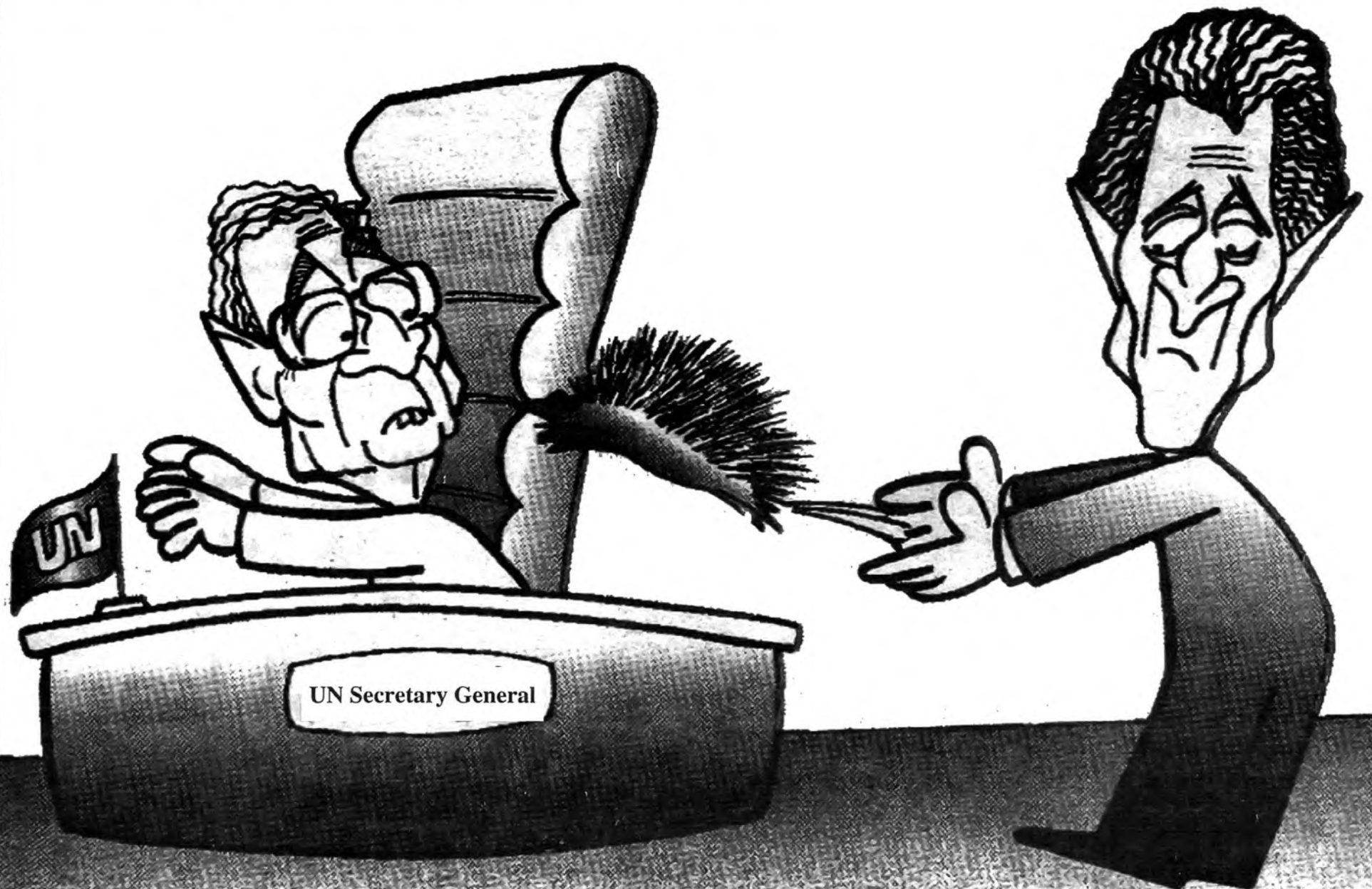
mosque to the square.

The new buildings, including the school, have little to do with the appearance of historical Kawkaban. The stone used is white lava, and black lava is used for simple decorations. Lava is quarried and brought in by lorries. Opening arc, in general, large windows that have become popular in the last two decades, with *takhrim* fan-lights.

To date, there is neither an official program for the development of the town nor for the conservation of its unique characteristics.

**By: Fernando Veranda,
Development and Urban Metamorphosis,
pp. 34-35.**

Al-Akhdhar Al-Ibrahimi Hands-in His Report to UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.



NOTE: The numbers below are as up to-date as our records show. If your number has been changed, please call us at (268-661/2) for a correction. This is a courtesy service to our readers.



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Omawale Launches New UNICEF Efforts in Yemen

UNICEF launched in Yemen the organization's annual publication entitled "The Progress of Nations." On hand to kick off the events was Dr. Omawale, UNICEF's Country Director or Resident Representative.

A press conference was held at the Taj Sheba Hotel on the occasion on Sunday the 26th of June 1994. The UNICEF Representative, Dr. Omawale, used the opportunity to brief the media on UNICEF's current activities and plans to assist children and women most seriously affected by the current emergency in Yemen.

The Acting Prime Minister of the Yemeni Government, Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, had appealed to the world community to help Yemen overcome the difficulties associated with the war. The UNDP had put together an emergency package, but to date, no payments, commitments, or even pledges have been made by donor countries.

However, the situation at the moment is serious and poses many difficulties. The lack of an effective cease-fire has not only prevented UNICEF and other international agencies and donors from assessing the

needs among some of the most affected portions of the population, but it has also prevented the Ministry of Health from initiating the important immunization program. Most of the people stay away from the medical facilities because of the war. That is why the possibilities of epidemics and major health hazards are extremely high.

On this occasion, Dr. Omawale pointed to the fact that wars in other countries have been stopped to permit immunization and other essential aid to reach children. "Corridors of Peace" and "Days of Tranquillity" have been observed during the civil wars in El-Salvador, Sudan, Lebanon and former Yugoslavia. The Government of Sierra Leone also arranged and facilitated the release of child soldiers recruited by all sides during that country's civil war. UNICEF was thus able to assist in the children's trauma healing, peace education and rehabilitation.

Recalling the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, he called for a broad alliance for Yemeni children, who are after all the future of the country.

Corrections on the Interview with Lebanese Ambassador

Based on the interview published last week, Dr. A. Mamlouk, Ambassador of Lebanon in Yemen, wrote to the Yemen Times to alert to certain corrections as follows:

- "The paper has failed to mention Israel's occupation of the southern part of Lebanon, which I repeatedly stressed."
- "The ambassador had indicated that a lot of Lebanon's difficulties and complications are due to Israel, which occupies the southern strip of Lebanon."
- "In our relations with Syria, Lebanon receives assistance at the security and political levels, at its request. Even if the support is exchanged, the truth of the matter is that it is Syria that supports Lebanon's position in the peace negotiations."
- "Regarding the electrification cooperation between Lebanon and Syria, I said that the two countries are cooperating in this field in a manner

similar to the project which is envisaged for Egypt, Palestine and Jordan."

The paper omitted this portion altogether from the interview.

Editor's Note: The Yemen Times interviews run to several pages, and we feel no obligation to put in print all that is said in the interviews. But we do take care not to mis-represent the statements and positions. That is especially important when summarizing long statements.

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It Is Examination Time!



Yahya Al-Hodeidi

These days, 268,827 students are taking important exams at the end of one phase or another during their education. The total number of students taking the exams of the preparatory level is 151,797. This number does not include students in the southern and eastern governorates. In addition, 22,198 students are taking exams at the same level, but within the Al-Maahid Al-Ilmiyyah (religious schools) system. At the secondary level, 85,712 students are taking the high school leaving examinations. Moreover, 9,120 students are taking the same exams through the Al-Maahid Al-Ilmiyyah. As a result, the whole nation is decidedly overwhelmed by these exams as the fate of their children will be decided by their results.

To see the issues from the Ministry's point of view, Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Ali Ahmad Al-Kumaim, the Director-General of Examinations and Control at the Ministry of Education. Al-Kumaim holds a B.A. in commerce and a high studies diploma in educational planning. Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi filed the following report.

Q: The examinations of this year are taking place under exceptional circumstances. Are there any special considerations because of that?

A: Of course, the war situation is taken into consideration when assessing the grades and our students. We realize the exceptional worry and pressure associated with the unstable political situation. It is my conviction that the acquisition of knowledge and the performance in exams are both affected by the environment in which the students live. The ministry has exerted a lot of efforts to minimize the impact of the war on students. We have, as

you know, pushed back the exams, hoping the war would come to an end. To avail the suitable conditions for the students giving instructions to be soft and wise in dealing avoiding any sort of tension, worry or complications.

Q: I can see some of your statistics show southern and eastern governorates. Are you saying that you are supervising exams in those governorates?

A: The process of examinations in the northern governorates are, of course, proceeding smoothly and there is no impediments. However, there are problems in the eastern and southern governorates. Our response to the difficulties in the southern and eastern governorates has been in many ways, as follows: Based on the field report of committees formed by the Minister of Education, the following steps were taken:

1. To proceed with exams in the normal way in Shabwah governorate.
2. To postpone exams in Abyan and Lahej for a specific time.
3. To consider the position of students in Aden, Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara as the situation unfolds

Mr. Ali Al-Kumaim



Q: You mentioned that the Ministry will be "understanding" in evaluating student performances this year due to the war situation. Could you elaborate?

A: The correction process will only take the examination to account for only 70%. The other 30% will come for the grade of the preceding years. Say you have a student sitting for the high school exams. His/Her exams will make up 70% of the final grade, while 10% will be brought forward from each of the first, second, and third secondary years. This way, we would have reduced the relative weight of the



final exams, which used to be marked out of 100%. Second, the grading will follow normal standards. But once all the grades are in, we will make a curve to check out the overall level of performance compared to earlier years. I am sure the curve will be adjusted if it deviates greatly from the normal of past years.

Q: What are the numbers of the students who are taking these examinations?

A: As for the preparatory level the number is 173,995 students being examined in 1754 centers. The secondary level students are fewer. They are 94,832 students taking their exams in 392 centers. I have to admit the females represent only 38% at the preparatory level and about 27% at the secondary level.

Q: What kind of problems face the high committee for exams which is charged with running the exams?

A: There are a lot of problems facing us due to the war. For example, though we had issued the exam seat numbers, a large number of the students did not return to their schools to pick them up. So, we have to entertain the fact that some students registered in one exam center show up at another. This has created a lot of confusion. There are also a number of logistical difficulties. Sometimes holding unruly (read bad) students who make trouble. I have to say our minister has helped in overcoming them.

Q: What are you doing regarding the phenomenon of cheating?

A: This phenomenon has spread during the last three years and I think it has to do with the deterioration of our value system, about which, by the way, Yemen Times has been writing extensively. We have a new mentality which only wants to arrive. They go to school, just to get the certificates. So, they would do anything to get those certificates. Then they use the certificate to land a nice job and enjoy an easy life. Such people cannot build a nation. We have to earn a good life. What we require is cooperation from all the apparatuses of the state, as well as the family and

society, to overcome this phenomenon. There should be severe penalties for such violations. In 1977, I was in Iraq in a training program. There were reports of leaks of the questions. In response to that, a committee chaired by Saddam Hussein personally - at that time he was vice president of Iraq, was formed. The committee announced that the penalty for the perpetrators is the death sentence. I don't think we should go that far, by the point is that there should be a stiff penalty for such violations.

The office of Mr. Al-Kumaim is obviously enudated by students with all kinds of complaints and protests. We used the opportunity to talk to some of them.

Q: What is your evaluation of the exam under the current situation?

A: The reality is that we are not prepared for as fully as we would have liked. We were overwhelmed by the war. In addition, most of us have left the cities to our villages, which were safer. So we lost touch.

Q: How ready are the exam centers?


A: Most of those responsible for supervising the exams are people who themselves do not have even high school certificates.

Q: What about the world cup matches these days. Have they too strayed you?

A: As you know we young people are attached to sports, specially soccer. Now we have the world cup matches. One of my friends stayed the whole night to watch the Saudi-Netherlands game, and went to his exams the next day!

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Total Number of Students Taking the High School Leaving Examinations		
Governorate	Exam Centers	Students
Taiz	64	16,315
Sanaa City	36	12,704
Hodeidah	40	9,579
Ibb	28	9,401
Sanaa	13	7,866
Dhamar	22	5,674
Aden	20	4,050
Hajjah	18	4,109
Lahej	24	3,299
Hadhramaut	17	2,840
Al-Baidha	8	2,047
Saadah	8	1,573
Al-Mahweet	4	1,486
Abyan	10	1,296
Marib	3	1,293
Al-Jowf	3	1,119
Shabwah	7	985
Al-Mahara	2	85
TOTAL	392	85,712

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