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# YEMEN TIMES



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**"A STATE THAT CANNOT HELP THE MANY WHO ARE POOR, CANNOT DEFEND THE FEW WHO ARE RICH." J.F. Kennedy**

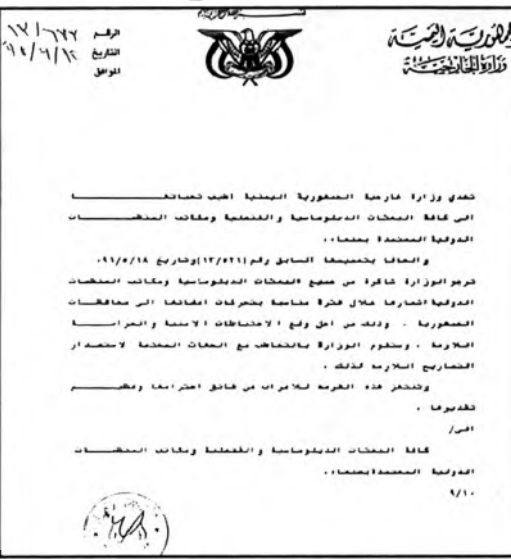
## The Government's New Controls on Diplomats & Int'l Organizations

The Government has recently circulated a memo to the diplomatic community and international organizations telling them they now needed permission to travel within Yemen.

The Foreign Ministry memo stated that an earlier memo No. 521/12 of 18/5/1991 which had liberated the movement of the diplomats within the republic was now nullified.

According to the new rules, diplomats and personnel of international organizations have to inform the Foreign Ministry of any plans to travel, giving ample lead time for the Ministry to secure a permit.

The memo says that the new limitations were necessary because of security considerations.



## Military Occupation of a Yemeni Village on Prime Minister Abdulghani's Orders:

# State Terrorism

One armored vehicle came from the northern side of the village. Two armored vehicles came from a detour on the southern edge. A fourth armored vehicle came from the open road. They and the 56 officers and soldiers on board were zeroing in on Hadharem village. As they approached, the B10 guns thundered shots in the air. The terrible roar of the firing of the big guns in the air sent waves of fear all over the region. They fired four times. The children and women of the villages - frightened - scrambled for cover. Everybody that is, except an old woman who walked up to the soldiers and asked them if they had lost their direction. "The island of Hunaish is in the other direction," she told them. The soldiers responded by hitting her.

It all happened on Wednesday, 24th January, under direct orders from Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani. When approached and asked to stop this illegal military occupation of an unarmed civilian village, the Prime Minister simply said he did not want to be bothered.

On Friday 26th, the soldiers shot and wounded one of the village teenagers, Mr. Hussain Yusuf Hussain Al-Saqaf. The kid,

14 years old, was shot in the belly and leg and is in bad condition in hospital.

By January 27th, the number of soldiers grew to 400. The soldiers have now successfully occupied the Hadharem village. They say they have orders (from Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani) to quash the Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA), and to abolish one of its successful projects - the Women's Development Center. The Center had, through its work, attracted women from a vast region and became an important point of contact and influence.

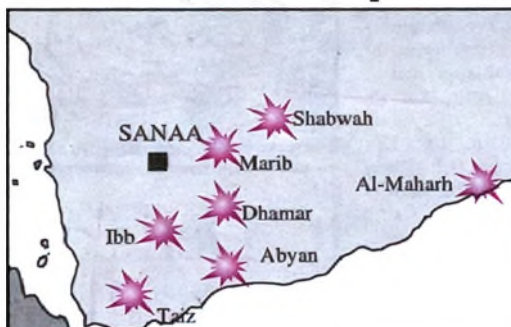
The HWA had contested the Prime Minister's orders and took the matter to court. The first hearing was on January 17th. The Prime Minister failed to show up or send a representative.

The judge scheduled the second session for February 28th, and sent another summons to the Prime Minister. The HWA lawyers' team leader, Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi said that the action of the Prime Minister is politically driven. It is an attempt to destroy an independent and successful NGO.

Continues on page 6

## Yemen in Turmoil as Violence Spreads

Many parts of Yemen witness today violent confrontations between civilians and military/security personnel. During last week alone, there were killings in Al-Maharah, Ibb and Taiz; 17 French tourists were taken hostage in Marib (later moved to Al-Ain in Shabwah); Yaffa'a in Abyan, and Hadharem in Hugariah are still under military seige, and many more hot spots.



More on page 2

# 1995 AIDS Report

Yemen Times obtained a confidential copy of an AIDS/HIV SURVEILLANCE REPORT for the Republic of Yemen. The visible conclusion is that Yemen has an AIDS problem and the problem is growing. Although the report was unable to give a cumulative number for the patients and carriers, it did give the number of cases discovered during 1995. It said that the number of cases diagnosed, documented and under medication for 1995 were 62. This is not a cumulative number, but the number of cases for 1995. (Please refer to adjacent table.)

The international standard yardstick is that each discovered aids patient, there are some 200 patients who have decided to suffer quietly in order to avoid the social stigma associated with being labelled an AIDS patient. In other words, the 1995 AIDS patients of Yemen could easily reach 12,400 cases.

By looking at the table, two conclusions easily stand out.

First, the male cases by far outnumber the female cases. The eschew is explained by the second factor.

Second, the sexually active age-group suffers more than any other age group. This is because the disease is transmitted in 90% of the cases through sexual relations rather than any other means.

**Number of AIDS Cases for 1995**

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-4	0	1	1
5-14	2	0	2
15-19	3	1	4
20-29	12	4	16
30-39	14	7	21
40-49	10	4	14
50+	1	0	1
Unknown	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>62</b>

Source: AIDS/HIV Surveillance Report, National Aids Control Program, Sanaa

In the long-run, the disparity between males and females will taper off because infected males will inevitably carry the disease to women.

Similarly, the report shows that 0.2% of the persons tested for HIV showed positive results. This means, if averaged for the total Yemeni population, some 32,000 Yemeni are HIV positive, meaning they are passive carriers of the disease or risk persons, as the report says.

At this stage, AIDS in Yemen is still an urban problem.

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## A Big Joke Called ADEN as Yemen's Gateway to the World

Now, let us talk basic common sense. This is regarding the place of Aden in this republic.

We start by what the politicians say.

The leadership of Yemen and the government speak of Aden as the commercial and economic capital of the country. They speak of Aden as a Free Zone. They speak of Aden as Yemen's gateway to the world.

Then look at the facts.

In 1990, when Yemen was re-united, there were 702 Western foreigners living in Aden. When the civil war erupted in 1994, there were 321 Westerners who were counted for evacuation purposes. Today, there are 42 of them living in Aden.

What does it all mean?

It means that the concept of Aden as Yemen's gateway to the world is a big joke. The rulers are not straight about what place they really want Aden to take in this country. They do say that they want Aden to command a key position in Yemen's growth and prosperity.

At the same time, they have formally asked many companies, especially oil companies, which had been headquartered over there, to re-locate elsewhere. The shift has been mainly in favor of Sanaa. The authorities have also witnessed consulates and other diplomatic representation in Aden dwindle, without making any effort to help consolidate such presence. Finally, the Aden Free Zone is undergoing enormous difficulties in its take off.

Meanwhile, the presence of even local economic enterprises in Aden continues to fall, except for the land-grabbing tribal leaders and military-security officers. The hunger and thirst for ownership of real estate among the northern power centers has resulted in a dramatic change in the structure of real estate ownership in the former capital of the south.

Where do we go from here?

If the leadership is serious about the big role it wants Aden to play in the future of the country, it must make tangible efforts to create the atmosphere necessary for Western residents to remain in Aden. It is ridiculous to seek to bring everybody to Sanaa.

Foreigners in general and Westerners in particular, because of their purchasing power and the projects associated with them, are a source of business and much economic activity. That is why Aden cannot really become Yemen's main contact point with the outside world, unless larger and larger numbers of Westerners call it home.

The Publisher  
*Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf*

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## Over 1330 People Die in Car Accidents Every Year

The Ministry of Interior, Traffic Department, disclosed that over the six-year period 1990-95, 8,021 persons were killed and 42,477 were injured in traffic accidents.

The table below gives a breakdown of the casualties on a yearly basis.

Year	Cases	Killed	Injured
1990	8662	1867	8861
1991	7579	1275	17180
1992	9283	1309	7203
1993	8546	1334	7831
1994	6499	1184	6631
1995	5234	1054	5247

The report further indicated that females represented less than 20% of the victims, because it is usually the men who are more mobile. It also indicated that speeding was the main cause of the accidents, although there were many other reasons.

Finally, the report indicates that the above accident cases represent those reported to the Traffic Department, and excludes the cases which were unreported or undocumented.

## France Moves In

Relations between Yemen and Eritrea have deteriorated further this week. The two each side sent home the ambassador of the other side. Military build-up at the Hunaish Archipelago continues, and the media campaign and rhetoric has jumped to new highs.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council-authorized French mediation has reached a turning point as France secured the approval of both Yemen and Eritrea for its mediation efforts.

France reported the same to the UN Security Council. French President Jacques Chirac sent letters to both presidents on this problem.

At another level, there is talk of a possible summit that will bring Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Eritrean President Asaias Afewerke together in Egypt.

In less than half a year, relations between the two neighbors have fallen from very friendly to confrontational.

## 20% Raise in Salaries of Armed Forces

The Cabinet has decided last week to give a 20% raise to the soldiers and officers of the armed forces. The raise will be applied as from current January, and it is directed to help overcome the rising cost of living.

## Cont'd from page 1: Turmoil in Yemen

The deterioration in the security conditions all over the country are triggered by two main reasons:

1. The falling standard of living of the majority of the people.
2. The prevalence of corruption, favoritism and inefficiency of the government in interacting with the public.

Observers believe that the country badly needs dedicated and clean officials who can handle their responsibilities. Yet, it is clear that the problem is not really with the officials, but with the highly personalized system according to which power is so concentrated that no minister or other official can really carry out his duties.

The state of lawlessness and chaos that has gripped the country, of course, will not attract any local investments, let alone foreign ones. Stability is a key factor in development.

# Ramadan

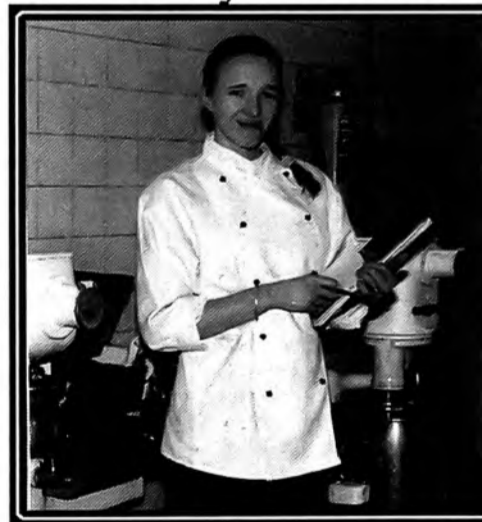
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- Blueberry/Respberry)
- Millefeuilles Cake
- Pineapple Cake with Fresh Creme
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- Apple Pie
- Fruitart (pears,peaches,apricot or cherry)
- Cookies

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**Dr. Mohammed Al-Saqqaf:**

# "Yemen's legal system is drifting in the wrong direction."

Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf, is a first class lawyer and jurist, with considerable international experience. Saqqaf, is a graduate of the Sorbonne (Paris I & II) University in international legal and political affairs, with special emphasis on international negotiations.

Today in Yemen, he is unable to fill up his time. Sanaa University, in which he taught during 1977/78, is unable (unwilling) to process his employment paperwork in order for him to resume work with it. So he keeps busy by writing regular columns to the written media, and by participating in seminars and various meetings. He is also writing a documentary book on Yemen's unification experience.

Al-Saqqaf, 46, is a native of Tarim. He received his early education in Hadhramaut. He then moved to Egypt, and finally to France.

"I left Yemen after only one year here (1977-78), because in that one year two presidents were killed and there was a lot of upheaval," he explains. He spent the 1980s in Saudi Arabia working for Banque Indosuez.

He came back to Yemen in 1994.

Al-Izzy As-Selwi of Yemen Times talked to him about a number of broad social, political and legal issues.

Excerpts.

**Q:** A good legal system is a cornerstone for any modern society. How do you assess the evolution of Yemen's legal system?

**A:** You are right. To have good laws and good enforcement are important components of any modern society. Actually these are basic prerequisites for any stability and growth.

Here in Yemen, we are, of course, caught between three types of laws. We have yet to evolve of them a comfortable amalgam or mix. These laws are the a'araf (socio-tribal traditions), sharia-based religious regulations and laws, and finally modern civil laws.

Yemen needs all three types or sources of laws. But we have to develop a macro vision which will put them in proper perspective based on how useful they are to society.

**Q:** But the proper interaction of Yemen with the world would be based on the universal rather than the parochial set of laws?

**A:** Yes, indeed. Let me note from the outset, that building a modern Yemen in which we have clear relations and cooperation with the rest of the world will require an increasing dose of modern civil laws at the expense of the other two. I am afraid that what has been happening in Yemen has been the opposite.

You the rulers and people with influence in Yemen know best the a'araf laws, and to a lesser extent, religion-based sharia laws. So, they tend to resolve problems and look at issues from the angle of the laws that they know. That is why major issues in Yemen today are resolved not in the modern legal system, but in the traditional framework.

This is neither good for Yemen, nor fair to the Yemeni people. We are drifting back in time, while the country actually needs to strengthen the modern legal system. At the same time, not all Yemenis are equally versed in the traditional tribal laws. City people and residents of the southern parts of the country do not know the traditional norms, hence the drive to tribalize them by teaching them tribal norms, values and laws.

In the final analysis, the country cannot continue to tackle its present problems with tools and perspectives from the past. We have to make the transition into the modern days.

**Q:** Can you give us specific examples of how we have been going back?

**A:** The examples are many. There is a generational struggle going on between the old guard in the legal system and new graduates. The old folks continue to win. You can see this even in the archiving system, the structure of the court, the home-base dispensation of justice, etc.

Let me give a more vivid example. In the former PDRY (South Yemen), the legal system has evolved so well to the extent that the system had female lawyers and judges. Today, Yemeni women are not only losing the right to serve as judges, but many courts do not even accept female lawyers.

**Q:** Let us talk about something you have written extensively about - the Yemeni-Saudi Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). What is the problem with it?

**A:** There are a number of problems. Let me enumerate my reservations point by point.

1. Our border problem with Saudi Arabia has three main dimensions: The border region handled by the 1934 Tayif Agreement, the border region extending from Al-Jawf eastwards into the Rub Al-Khali until the Omani border, and the maritime border.

In my opinion, these should have been treated together as one bundle. If we were asked to give on one side, as we have done, we should have secured in return a concession on another. We have not done this.

2. Saudi Arabia, in its preparation for and execution of the negotiations, has enlisted the service and support of its best people, and has in fact hired foreign expertise. On the Yemeni side, the negotiating team was not made up of experts on legal and border issues. They were politicians and officials who had the trust of the rulers. But then, added to the team were people who needed financial support from Saudi Arabia, and joining the negotiating team was the most direct mechanism to get the money.

3. Saudi Arabia has treated this MoU as an international agreement. Therefore, in its internal approval of it, it has treated it as such. On the other hand, Yemen has treated the MoU as a political agreement, and has only presented to the government cabinet for approval. For example, it was



never presented to parliament for approval, as should be with the legally binding documents.

**Q:** In your last point, are you implying that the two countries have different understandings of the nature of the MoU?

**A:** I have just stated a fact. In reality, how Yemen perceives and treats the MoU will not change its binding nature.

**Q:** Is that true even if another government or regime came to Yemen?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Let us talk about Hunaish. Yemen and Eritrea have a dispute on their hands. What is your advice to the government?

**A:** Allow me to mention a small side point. A few weeks back, the Yemeni-Saudi border negotiation team was discussing the maritime border. They did not make any headway. By the way, it is also weird to discuss sea borders when you have not completed land borders, because sea borders are extensions of land borders and they rarely exist by themselves.

Now based on what I said, let me draw attention to an Eritrean demand, regarding demarcation of its Red Sea border with Yemen. Eritrea demanded that Saudi Arabia and Djibouti be involved, in addition, of course, to Yemen and Eritrea. I am not comfortable with the mixing of those issues and countries.

Having said that, I think it is critical for Yemen to continue with its present approach. We need to patiently push through arbitration and international legal channels.

But there is a catch. We should not spend precious time with mediation efforts by countries which do not have the authority to enforce decisions. I am referring to the Egyptian and Ethiopian efforts, which although much appreciated, cannot and will not lead to solutions.

The French mediation, however, mandated by the UN, and France's international stature and military might will give it the necessary leverage to push a solution.

We see Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, the head of the legislative branch of authority, undertake tasks that fall within the domain of the government. You can see him routinely giving orders to the ministers, governors, military and security officers, etc. Of course, the blatant example has been the fact that he led the border negotiations and deal with Saudi Arabia. That fact may have been one reason the parliament which he heads was not qualified to approve it.

At another level, the President of the Republic, who is the head of the executive branch of authority, is also the head of the Supreme Judicial Council. In addition, the executive branch of authority controls the financial allocations and remunerations, employment and promotion, etc. of the judges and the court staff. This overlap of authority is one of the major hindrances of the proper transformation of the Yemeni system of government.

**Q:** Moreover, there is the issue of enforcement of the law?

**A:** Yes, that is yet another drawback. Although Yemen has good laws on paper, they are not enforced. This explains the difference in attitude between Yemenis and foreigners, or still better, between observers of Yemen inside the country and those outside.

When you read the texts of our laws, they are very good. But, of

course, the authorities do not care much about them. You can see this, especially in the behavior of the political security office, and other security, military and the various government organs.

Even when cornered, the authorities use various loopholes and excuses to break the spirit of the law. This is clear in dealing with freedom of the press, political pluralism, NGOs and syndicates. The main thrust of our politicians is to retain as much control as possible. They will twist the laws and their interpretations in order to retain power.

**Q:** Are you here referring to the executive by-laws?

**A:** Exactly. You see, constitutions and laws are of a general nature. Details of how the laws should be implemented and what they mean is given in what is termed as executive by-laws or regulations. Here in Yemen, these regulations which are issued by the line ministries and institutions, are used to take back the freedom given in the laws. The best example of this is the press law. While the press law is reasonably good, the by-laws recently released by the Ministry of Information are simply shameful.

**Q:** Any last comment?

**A:** The authorities have been bent on beating up and harassing the Saqqafs. I hope I have not just added another Saqqaf to their list by agreeing to do this interview.

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تلفون: ٢١٩٨٣٥

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**On the Occasion of 28th January:  
The International Day for Combating Leprosy**

# Yemen Makes Headway in Combating Leprosy

As in most countries, Leprosy in Yemen has a long and unhappy history. It is even recorded that, many centuries ago, one ruler collected large quantities of firewood with every intention of solving the leprosy problem by burning the patients on a funeral pyre. Fortunately, he died before carrying out this drastic "cure".

Even today, it is common for victims of leprosy to be castigated. They are forced out of their families and even out of the village. In fact, the moment the disease is diagnosed to be a leper, the patient is considered socially dead. As recently as the 1960s, they were forced to live in unsanitary leprosia.

Today, thanks to the pioneering and relentless efforts of Dr. Yassin Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati and his team at the National Leprosy Control Program (NLCP) headquartered in Taiz, a more enlightened attitude is spreading as word gets out that leprosy is indeed curable by MDT. The country's case-load of leprosy patients under medication has declined from a peak of 2314 registered cases in 1989 to just 828 at the end of September 1995.

Yet the fight must continue in full force. Between January and September 1995, 291 new cases were detected.

In 1992, an NGO called Yemen Leprosy-Elimination Society (YELEP) was established to further the activities of the NLCP. It has been busy

in providing material, financial and technical support to patients, including rehabilitation of former sufferers.

In spite of the highly visible and cost-effective results achieved by the NLCP and YELEP, they face financial constraints, as well as stigma of leprosy, even among health workers. Moreover, control activities have yet to be integrated in the health care infrastructure. Finally, the scattered nature and low profile of the victims, in a country suffering from difficult terrain and poor transportation and communications, impede the activities of field supervisors.

Nevertheless, the attitude of the community towards leprosy is gradually changing, thanks to intensive health education activities, including regular newspaper features and special television programs every year. The NLCP and YELEP have also produced many posters and stickers that have left their impact on the general public.

The efforts of Dr. Al-Qubati and his colleagues are finally paying off. They must feel the satisfaction for the achievement. They are confident that transmission of leprosy in Yemen will be effectively halted within the WHO target date of 2000.

By: Yusuf Al-Shareef,  
Yemen Times.

# ICRC Establishes a Hotline to Rescue Journalists

Anwar Al-Sayyad,  
Yemen Times.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) established recently a hotline for coming to the rescue of journalists and reporters. "The idea is for the ICRC to directly intervene on behalf of the journalist/s who is/are being detained, imprisoned, etc. Therefore, any media personality subjected to such illegal action may immediately report the incident, giving as much information as possible," explains an ICRC memo.

The persons and numbers to be contacted are:

Pierre Gassmann,  
Head of Press Division, ICRC,  
Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2889;  
Fax: 00 (4122) 734-8280

Paul-Henri Morard,  
Head of Press Spokesman,  
Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2470

Tony Burgener,  
Head of Press a.i.,  
Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2317

Kim Gordon-Bates,  
ICRC News Coordinator,  
Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2302

Christina Fedele,  
National Societies and Special Files,  
Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2836

Press Officers Responsible for World Regions:

1. MIDDLE EAST (including Yemen):  
Rolin Wavre - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2876

2. AFRICA:  
Rene-Lue Thevoz - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2265

3. LATIN AMERICA:  
Ruben Ortega - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2454

4. WEST/CENTRAL EUROPE & BALKANS  
Pierre Gauthier - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2839

5. EAST EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA:  
Suzanne Berger - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2307

6. ASIA:  
Joerg Stoecklin - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2906

7. PRODUCTION UNITS:  
Peter Fluege - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2080

8. NEWS IMAGES:  
Mariana Olofsson - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2909

9. RCBS/RADIO PRODUCTIONS:  
Patrick Piper - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2019  
Jean-Pierre Abel - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2021

10. PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN  
Johanne Dorais Slakmon: 00 (4122) 730-2319  
Laurence Fabry - Phone: 00 (4122) 730-2993

The above details were circulated to the local media by the International Organization of Journalists' Regional Office Director, Mr. Mahboob Ali.

## THE STIGMA IN LEPROSY

By: Madyan Mohamed Abdul Hamid,  
University of Taiz.

### Stigma in Leprosy:

Leprosy is a chronic disease which causes damage to the nerves and skin. It is also called Hansen's disease. This disease is known to many people but it is understood by very few. This lack of knowledge about leprosy leads to misunderstanding, mis-conception and fear.

Leprosy is a well-known disease in Yemen since ancient times. It is known as "Gutham". According to the historical record one of the past rulers in Yemen once collected a huge amount of wood to burn the leprosy patients in Sana'a as a solution to the leprosy problem. He died before committing this crime. This is evidence that the stigma attached to leprosy has deep roots in our history and our society.

### CAUSES OF THE STIGMA

The main reason behind the stigma in leprosy is FEAR: WHY?

Fear of the leprosy patient is a result of a number of causes:

### THE PHYSICAL DEFORMITIES:

Leprosy if not treated early, causes complications on the skin and disfigurement of the limbs, the eyes and the nose. These part of the body are important and apparent to everybody. So, the deformities are easily taken notice of. The disfigurement of the leprosy patient makes his appearance abnormal and frightening.

AIDS, which is hundred times more dangerous than leprosy, is not as frightening to people in Yemen as leprosy because it does not appear on the patient's body in the form of deformities like leprosy.

The deformities in leprosy are not caused directly by the bacteria of the disease but they are complications of the disease, i.e. they appear as a result of negligence of the disease in its first stage.

If the patient is treated in the beginning the social stigma can be avoided.

### IGNORANCE & MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE DISEASE:

Leprosy has a famous name here in Yemen is "Gutham" - the th is pronounced as in the.

- In the past, it was considered a curse of God on the people who were leading a sinful life. God was punishing them by this curse of Leprosy, as people used to think. So, they thought that leprosy patients should be burnt or banished.

- Some people think that leprosy is a result of illicit sexual intercourse and thus, they humiliate and insult the patients whom they think to be guilty. These are only two out of ten wrong notions the people have about leprosy. We can easily conclude that these wrong notions and ideas are the result of nothing but the ignorance of the people, and their misunderstanding of the disease. People do not know what leprosy is, what its causes are, and how and why it infects people. This

ignorance of the disease creates fear and horror to some people.

They do not know that leprosy is like any other disease. If we ask anyone of those who are afraid of leprosy to tell the reason behind this fear he won't be able to justify it because he doesn't know. The ignorance of these people causes fear which leads finally to hating and humiliating leprosy patients.

### "LEPROSY IS VERY INFECTIOUS?"

Most of the people think that this disease is very infectious and they may get it if they approach the leprosy patients, or even if they approach the clothes or other belongings of the patients.

It is true that leprosy is infectious but it does not infect everybody because 95% of the people have a natural immunity against this disease. Leprosy hasn't an intermediate host when it infects the person, so the fear of approaching or even using the clothes and belongings of the patients has no base or justification. Some people lived with leprosy patients for more than 20 years and did not catch the disease! What does this mean? I think it is clear that our notion "Leprosy is infectious and can infect everybody approaches the patient" is baseless.

### The misinterpretation of the Prophet's Hadith.

The prophet says in a "Hadith", "escape from a leper as you escape from a lion". This "Hadith" is the people's justification for their insulting behavior with the Leprosy patients. They say that the Prophet says that we should avoid lepers because they are as dangerous and injurious to the health as lions are dangerous. The fact is that people always misunderstand this "Hadith" which has another context but the people take the "Hadith" and neglect the context.

Ayshah, one of the wives of the Prophet, however denied this "Hadith" and said that they had a leprosy patient in their house. It is mentioned in another "Hadith" that the Prophet asked a leprosy patient to eat with him. "He took the hand of the patient and put it in his dish".

People, however, adhere to the literal meaning of the first "Hadith" without considering its context and neglect the second which encourages them to treat leprosy patients as brotheren in humanity.

### EFFECTS OF STIGMA:

Stigma in leprosy has a number of very serious consequences and effects on the patients. These effects are very dangerous as they have disastrous results on the different sides of the patient's life, physical, social and psychological.

### The social effects

The stigma in leprosy has its social effects which we can't fail to notice. These effects can be summarized as follow:

The isolation of the patient from the society. People try to isolate leprosy patient because they think they will infect them. The patient is usurped of all his rights in life. They force him to divorce his wife and leave his children. They also usurp all his money and property and banish him out of his house or village to any lace away from social life, to wait for death. The patient is considered as a parasite, that the society should get rid of. The people may think that leprosy patient who has become unable to live as a normal person in the society is no more than a parasite for the society and they should get rid of that sponger.

### The psychological effects:

- THE PATIENT LOSES SELF RESPECT.  
- THE PATIENT BECOMES DEPRESSED. HE OR SHE MAY LOSE ALL SELF CONFIDENCE AND EVENTUALLY LOSE ALL DESIRE TO LIVE.

The stigma in leprosy has far reaching effects on the patient psychologically.

### The physical effects:

In fact the physical effects of the stigma in leprosy are the result of the psychological effects on the patients.

• The patient when losing his self respect may injure himself further and become more fearful.

• In attempt to avoid the ill treatment by society, many patients hide the disease in the beginning which leads them gradually to suffer the complications of the disease because they did not treat it in the beginning.

• The patient seeing that the whole society is trying to get ride of him and usurp all his right to life, might feel depresses and lose his sense of self-respect. This may make him neglect taking the medicine because he thinks that it is of no use to take the medicine when he has lost his rights as a member in the society. This will cause more complications and deformities to the patient.

### THE SOLUTIONS:

The stigma in leprosy has very far reaching effects on the patient and his social, physical and psychological life. Knowing its causes and effects we should take very serious measures to eradicate the stigma. The most important suggested solutions are:

*The reintegration of patients into society* by treating them in ordinary hospitals instead of going to Madinat Al Nur, Taiz. In this way people will stop looking at leprosy as an abnormal disease.

The role of health education is very important in changing the attitude of people towards the patients and the disease itself. We can use many process in health education life TV, radio, newspapers, magazines to educate people about it.

In fact, radio and TV are the most suitable of the mass media to convey the idea of health education about leprosy due to the high percentage of illiterate people in Yemen. But this does not mean that we should neglect the other way of spreading the correct understanding of the disease among the people.

*The role of the Ministry of Education is very important.* It can participate in creating a good understanding of leprosy by including some lessons about leprosy in the school books. This will give the new generation a good and sufficient knowledge about the disease.

The role of the community is major factor. In fact, the community is the key factor of solving the stigma in leprosy. The members of the society should all participate in creating the correct understanding each one in his field; the teacher in his school, the Sheikh in the village, the father in his family, the Imam in the mosque. All influential people or social figures like the governor or the headmasters of schools can play a major role in eradicating the social stigma.

Thus, the role of the community proves to be the most important aspect in solving the problem of the stigma. If the community treats leprosy patients as members of society who have the same rights and duties as other people, the stigma will gradually disappear.

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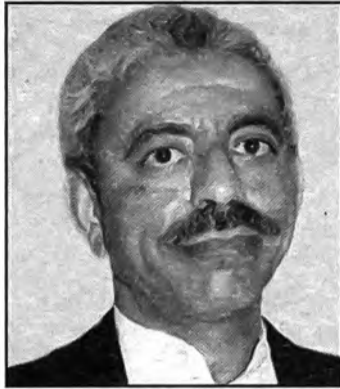
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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Why Islam?



From descriptions of the circumstances that surrounded the descent of the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Mohammed, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him (P), as discussed in last week's Common Sense, it is obvious that Mohammed was shouldered with a mission that was not by any means small or easy. The environment in Mecca was ripe for a change. There was just too much social misery, contempt for justice and a total disregard for a heritage that began with Ibrahim (Abraham in the Old Testament), who had come to Mecca well over a thousand years before and built the first House of God, the Ka'aba. Mecca was ready for a dose of heavenly wisdom and social reform to launch a universal call that would climax all the efforts of the prophets (P) that preceded Mohammed (P) (Noah, Lot, Saleh, Hud, Ismael, Ishaq or Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Zakariah, Moses, Jesus and others).

If the past prophets had been sent with specific messages to their respective peoples, Mohammed's (P) message was to the entire universe: "We sent you only as mercy to the all, the worlds" (The Quran 21:107) Thus Islam is a natural order which all of God's creations are compelled by their Creator to submit to, because it fits neatly with the designs of the universe as God had arranged it so. God, as the Creator is the obvious sole authority for legislation as to how his creations should carry on in this life: "Glorify the name of your Lord, Most High/ Who has created and thus adjusted/ And who has measured and thus enlightened (The Holy Quran-3). Thus by God's perfect arrangement of the universe, man as an integral part of the universe so bound to be required to submit to an acceptable order, as only God would decree.

The reader may wonder why Common Sense has gone heavy on religion and left the affairs of the day unattended to. Yet one is inclined to believe that Islam remains very important in international affairs, and increasingly so as time goes on. This is despite the fact that Islam as an effective international institution remains to be developed. There

are many forces in the world that see Islam as a threat to their interests, if it ever became allowed to organize into an effective body politic, which could possess any of the elements of power that could influence the course of international affairs. Previous discussions have dealt with this and other issues related to Islam, in the present international scene. What is being done now is that a deeper understanding of the philosophy and the principles that make up Islam is being encouraged to remove some of the misunderstandings and the biases which some of the antagonists to Islam might rightfully or wrongfully believe.

Since this is Ramadhan, it would be appropriate for the YT readers to delve into this fascinating religion, which can activate whole populations very quickly. The idea is to try to remove some of the misconceptions that non-Moslems have about the religion, some of which could arise because of the improper image reflected by some Moslems about their religion, which can be considered as deviations from the true Islam. The fact of the matter is that Moslems, on the whole believe in Islam, but without really understanding *how to so believe*. One thing quite clear however is that Islam is on the move again and this confirms that Islam must continue to be viewed as a vital human force.

When Mohammed (P) began his invitation to the people of Mecca to adopt Islam, the ruling regime in the city saw in the new religion a danger to a status quo that has given them power and riches, even though one of their most respectable citizens is propagating it. The heads of Quraish just could not accept a religion that made the slave equal to his owner in terms of rights and duties and turned against all the evils that had predominated in Mecca.

The Polytheism of Quraish and the rest of the Arabs of the Arabian Peninsula was a source of livelihood for the mercantile establishment, as it brought thousands of pilgrims to the Ka'aba, which housed over three hundred idols representing all the various gods that the Arabs worshipped, some of

which were regarded as "partners" of Allah, God forbid. (The Pilgrimage, in Islam, was sanctified after the Prophet had migrated to Medina.)

Mohammed stood steady and refused to give in to the big Whigs of Mecca.

The big Whigs a Mecca realized that Islam represented a revolutionary threat that would overhaul the entire social fabric of the city. They first tried to convince Mohammed, through explaining that Mohammed's relatives will be the first to loose if Islam took over the system that has existed for hundreds of years and which gives them the wealth and power which they enjoy. Then they tried to woo him with all the wealth and power that he might desire, by asking Abu Talib to mediate and make this offer to him.

They were ready to even make him King of all the Arabs Mohammed (P). The Prophet quickly gave his reply: "My uncle; By God, if they placed the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left hand for withdrawing from this mission, I shall never accept". The heads of Quraish started to confront the slowly spreading faith with every method of torture and harassment against the dedicated Prophet of Islam and his followers, who had initially comprised of his closest of kin and the increasing number of commoners, slaves and generally discontent people of the city of Mecca.

Several of his followers were killed, tortured and harassed in every way, especially those that could not rely on tribal protection. When that failed they besieged Mohammed(P) and his clan, the Banu Hashim, and imposed a boycott and an embargo on them for three years. Yet for three years, the Moslems continued to practice their faith and insisted on spreading it, despite the most difficult of conditions.

Throughout the early years of Islam Mohammed kept his followers from any violent reactions to the persecution the latter suffered from the rulers of Quraish. As the siege became regarded as a shameful act, which was considered by many other Quraishis as not fitting against fellow Quraishis, the siege was lifted, after the document that "legitimized" the siege was eaten up by termites except the phrase "In the name of Allah". After the heads of Quraish decided to terminate Mohammed, by a conspiracy in which all the clans of Quraish were represented in a killing party that was to slay Mohammed while he was asleep, thus preventing any revenge and the initiation of a blood feud, it was clear to Mohammed that Islam must begin a safer base. Mohammed (P) had learned of the conspiracy and fled to Yathrib which had already accepted Islam's teachings and taken in most of his followers, who had secretly fled in two waves. From there the rest was history.

Thus, from the above, it can be seen that Islam, in its simple beginnings had much bigger implications than just the institution of worshipping rites and the elimination of idol worship. It was in Medina that Islam took on the form of a new social order and a revolutionary form of statesmanship. Medina, with Mohammed as its leader took on the role of a model Moslem state (for further insight into this important transformation, the reader may consider also reading Abdul Rahman Azzam's: "The Eternal Message of the Prophet Mohammed.)

Thus from the outset, Islam came to bring a new order for the world, where justice and human rights are the core of the Message. Because of the nature of the world, then and even now, where power is the essential determinant of right and wrong, Islam was bound opposition. This opposition derives from power wielding institutions that Islam could regard such control of power as unjust and inequitable. As time went on, the new Islamic state hand become corrupted as the grass roots followers

were deprived of their rights to be involved in political decision making and the Islamic state became a royal dynasty or an imperial court, which eventually lead to the weakness of the Moslem nation as a unified political entity, that once held control over most of the civilized world during the Middle Ages. In fact, Islam had become synonymous with civilization, even in those periods when already the Moslem state has been subjected to many deviations.

Islam is the target of many misconceptions and mis-understandingly both its followers and its "enemies." Common Sense has covered the many misconceptions that present Muslim advocates tend to fall into, especially with regards to the idea that Islam accepts the often followed belief that the ends justify the means. In all of Mohammed's life and in the early years of the Islamic state, Islam never compromised its principles, notwithstanding the more positive ends that could have been realized other-wise. Common Sense has also looked at the political misconceptions that the New World Order has towards Islam. In fact, Western Society owes much to Islam for enlightening the thinkers of the feudal system that prevailed in the European fortress that withstood the advance of Islam in the darkness of the Middle Ages!

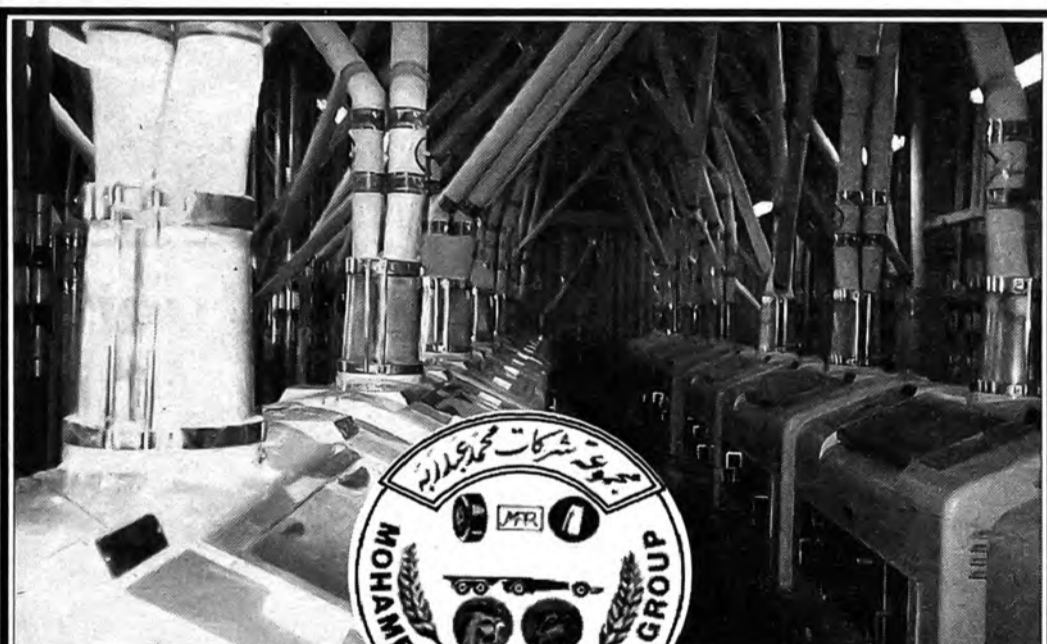
But this enlightenment centered on matters of the mundane, and the spiritual was ignored totally or despised and even ridiculed! Many Moslems who have become fairly knowledgeable about Western culture would tend to agree that the West has achieved more Islamic way in dealing with life and at times displays more adherence to Islamic principles of freedom and tolerance. But there are still important areas of conflict in the social and spiritual spheres of both sides. A closer look at Islam would still lead one to contend that, notwithstanding the advanced level of development in many fields which the West has reached, Islam is still stronger and forward looking in the spiritual and social spheres.

If we look at the organization of family life, for the sake of comparison, Islam was the first to regulate family life by clearly defining the roles and the rights of all the members of the family, in a logical and sensible format. More harmony in family life is an essential prerequisite to a more orderly society. This writes once asked a German friend why has he not married after already having surpassed the age of 35? His response was that he was afraid. He was afraid of having to eventually go through a divorce, because the statistics show that every third marriage in Germany ends up in divorce! Another German friend told me, ten years later that the rate is now 50%, i.e. 1 out of every 2 marriages. He himself has gone through four marriages, all of them ending in divorce!

What has become more frightening is that the divorces in Germany have become such a complex web of legal proceedings that encourage embezzlement through alimonies which are many times excessive. With such guarantees of income a woman might be more inclined to reject marriage altogether and thus is avoiding a most important foundation of social order, the family.

Despite the ease of a divorce in Islam (even for women), the divorce rate in Moslem societies would not surpass 10% of the marriages. Now, comparatively speaking, that is a reasonable proportion (1:10) when considering that they are mostly going through very trying times, and family life is under extreme pressure of economic difficulties and unstable political conditions.

Germany is not implied here as an exception to Western "advanced societies, in the matters of marriage and divorce. The situation is the rule for the most of them. Affluence should never be an excuse for social degeneration.



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Continued from Page 1:

## State Terrorism...

The regime in Sanaa has been constantly stating that it is committed to creating a pluralist system in which individuals and groups compete on an equal footing to create a modern civil society. Yet, the regime itself has been using state machinery, resources and the armed/security forces to frustrate any efforts for independent individuals and groups to grow. Unless individuals and groups are tied in with the ruling group, and they accept to remain under their influence, they are not allowed to interact freely.

The example of the Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA) and what has been happening to it is a frightening example of how much tolerance the rulers have for anything beyond their direct reach to grow. The HWA is a small Non-Governmental Organization that seeks to serve a small region in the remote mountains

of Taiz governorate. It has succeeded in mobilizing local and international resources to build infrastructure, introduce maintenance, and to create income-earning skills for men and women alike. As a result, it has mobilized people in a very effective self-help process that is so alien to our government.

The Government had tried to splinter the NGO, in 1995. But given the family links among the members, and the effective and transparent nature of the administration, the efforts failed. Nonetheless, the government did win a total of seven former members of the HWA who walked out and tried to disrupt the work of the association. Within a very short time, the majority of the members decided to give the seven members the right to leave and do whatever they wanted. That effort failed. Then the HWA was openly approached to join

one of the political parties in the ruling coalition. The answer was simple - individual members may join any party they choose, but the NGO as an institution cannot come under the wing of any party.

Finally, it looks like open warfare has been declared on the HWA. This is done using government soldiers, government money and government bureaucracy. Today, the HWA stands as a vivid and telling example of how strongly the regime resists any peaceful development effort by any individual or group - even when they are nonpolitical - unless they are coopted within the ruling group. The Ministry of Social Affairs states that the HWA is one of the most effective and active NGOs of Yemen.

Yet, the rulers of Yemen want it dead!

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

## WORLD BODY Needed to Coordinate Environmental Policy

The signals of trouble that the environment sends are often obscure, dim and complicated - by the time the threat is real, the cure could come too late. This is what environmentalists have taken to calling "over shoot". Better information - about the past, the present and most likely the future of a problem - is an essential requirement of intelligent environmental governance and policy. Particularly useful will be the transferable research findings and data from one part of the world that are useful in another, however different the two sites might be in their topography, climate and their socio-economic role. An international research group from Clarc University in the United States did a study on the possible commonalities at nine research locales around the world where environmental degradation is severe.

The causes and consequences of human induced environmental damage are not evenly distributed on the earth. The coverage in various places around the globe where human activities now threaten continuing rapport with nature - locales as sharply desperate in their topography and climate as the rain forests of the Amazon, the wintry wastes of the North Sea and the peaks and valleys of Himalayas. Such environmentally endangered areas were extensively discussed at the earth summit at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. It is not just that these areas face the greatest immediate danger. More forbodingly, they may be harbingers of broader and longer term situations associated with global change. Such locales are of interest because they facilitate on-site exploration of the complex, yet sometimes narrowly located interactions

between the driving forces of global changes and local environmental vulnerabilities. They allow environmental scientists to examine the relationship of both the scale and time in the process of change. For the past five years, research groups have been making a comparative analysis of environmentally threatened regions. Case studies were conducted in many regions following the same research protocol. The nature of human propelled change necessarily varies from region to region reflecting the differing impact of human activity on both the natural setting and societal well-being. The analysis seeks to explain not only the trajectory - that is the rate of slope and the rate of change over time of each of the variables - but also the causal relationship among them. Along with global economic forces, the

interaction one region has with another, nearby or distant, are major factors that set regional vulnerabilities. Much evidence from the project for example suggest the growing dependence of many agricultural economies on fluctuations in world market prices. Another major consideration is the role played by the environmental manner at "center stage" (often the individual farmer) vis-a-vis that of state policies or actions. It must be emphasized that there are many shared factors that dominate regional dynamics. Combating them in a coordinated international effort could prove to be more cost-effective and rational. But to achieve that, the world would need to evolve an international body that has the mandate to do so. Unfortunately, that is not yet in place.

By: Ramzy Al-Saqqaf.

### The Dollar Exchange Rate

The exchange rate of the US dollar in Yemeni Riyals has witnessed enormous swings over the last few days. At first, the rate jumped to over YR 145 for the dollar. Then with the news of the success of the Meeting of Donors and the new money raised by the government, the rate came down to YR 130 per dollar.

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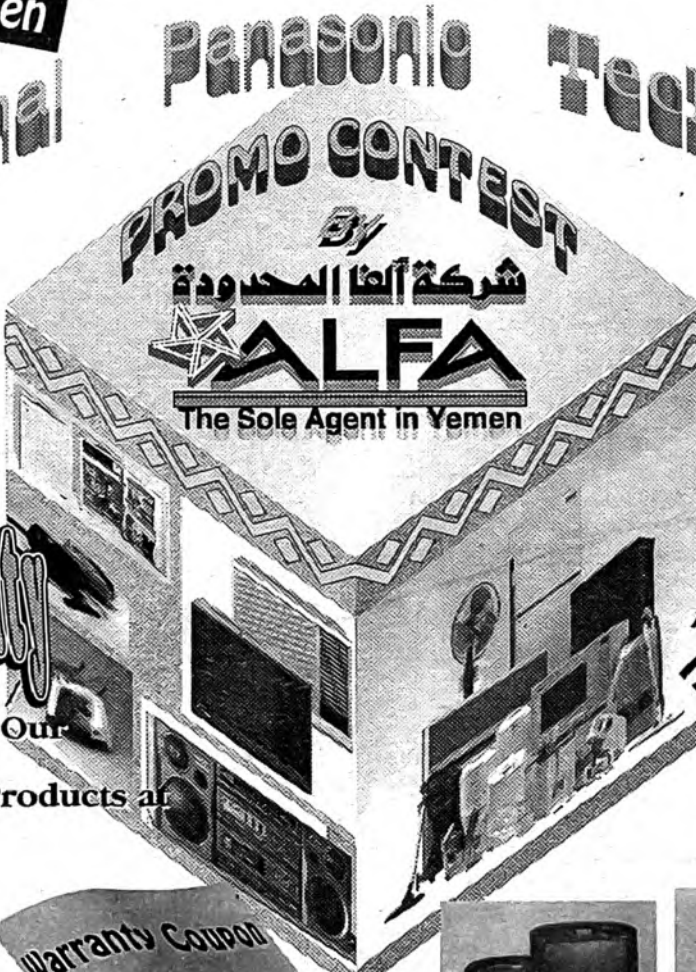
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# "As a result of the Donors' Meeting in The Hague, Yemen is back on the Map of the International Donor Community."

## Statement by the Representative of the International Monetary Fund

Mr. Paul Chabrier, Director, Middle Eastern Department

I am pleased to participate in this meeting and discuss the Yemeni authorities' financial adjustment and structural reform program for 1996. The program is directed at putting Yemen on a path of sustainable and steadily accelerating real economic growth, financial stabilization, and strengthening the country's external position. In support of this program, the Government has requested a 15-month Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) from the Fund and an Economic Recovery Credit from the World Bank (IBRD). The Fund and Bank managements have agreed to recommend the program as described in the Government's Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies and the Letter of Economic Policy, respectively, for consideration by the Executive Boards.

The authorities have also indicated to the Fund management that they wish to continue their adjustment and reform efforts over the medium term under a three-year ESAF arrangement which would replace the SBA later in 1996. My statement will provide some background and then review the main elements of the Government's 1996 program and its external financing needs.

Further details on the Government's economic and financial program will be provided in the Fund staff report on request for a stand-by arrangement expected to be issued in early February 1996.

Over 1990-94, Yemen's economic performance was admittedly disappointing. Real non-oil GDP contracted resulting in declining real per capita income, and unemployment increased. Large budget deficits were recorded which reached 17% of GDP in 1994. As these deficits were primarily financed by the domestic banking system, monetary growth was rapid; there was an erosion of confidence in the currency accompanied by rising velocity; inflation increased to over 70% in 1994; and the freely-determined parallel market exchange rate depreciated substantially. With administratively fixed domestic prices for certain major commodities, subsidization increased significantly and negatively affected the economy's performance.

Large balance of payments deficits were also recorded despite sizable increases in crude oil exports during 1993-94. This situation reflected a narrow export base, a heavy dependence on imports -- particularly food imports, a deterioration in the terms of trade which accumulated to about 35% as oil export prices weakened and world cereal prices rose, declining financial inflows, and substantial debt service obligations.

As a result, there were pressures on official foreign exchange resources, external debt obligations were not fully discharged, and arrears accumulated.

In large part, these economic conditions resulted from adverse external and domestic exogenous factors. In addition to the weakened terms of trade, developments in the former Soviet Union closed off an important source of external assistance and disrupted trade relations; and the 1990 regional (Gulf) crisis led to a halt of traditional inflows of official external support, disruption to regional trade, the return of over 700,000 expatriates, and reduced remittance inflows. There were moreover domestic political strains which limited the Government's ability to respond to these external developments and culminated in the civil strife of 1994.

The resolution of these strains in favor of the Central Government, however, cleared the political atmosphere, and the authorities quickly used this opportunity to initiate - in 1995 - economic policy reforms directed at stabilizing the economy and improving its performance.

The 1995 reform effort encompassed a commendable set of measures. These included: budget revenue mobilization and strong expenditure containment actions; important price adjustments; the freeing up of interest rates and improvements in monetary management; partial reform of the exchange system; and adoption of a broadly-oriented privatization program.

The results were positive. The fiscal deficit was reduced by 10 percentage points to 7% of GDP, and with substantially lower bank financing leading to sharply lower credit and monetary expansion, inflation fell to 45%. Moreover after aid-year, as the authorities' financial measures took hold, the free market exchange rate appreciated considerably and then stabilized. With the end to civil disruptions, non-oil economic activity also strongly recovered. The external position, however, remained under pressure due to the recovery of imports, while other external sector factors -- including weak oil export prices -- continued largely unchanged.

Although there were notably positive developments in 1995, the authorities were aware that achieving their goals for growth, employment, financial and exchange rate stability, and progress toward external viability would require further strengthening of their policy reform efforts. Consequently, they initiated discussions with the Fund and World Bank staff on a comprehensive adjustment and reform program.

Following negotiations beginning in mid-1995, agreements were reached on a broad and far-reaching policy reform package for 1996 which the authorities have now begun to implement. Major actions have been taken in January, and further major actions are to be introduced in the coming weeks before consideration of the authorities' program by the Executive Boards of the Fund and the Bank.

The 1996 program is encompassed within a medium-term policy strategy and quantified framework covering 1996-2000 which is intended to achieve increased savings and investment, improved resource allocation, and an alleviation of import compression; private sector-led average non-oil GDP growth of more than 5%; unemployment alleviation and increases in real per capita consumption; maintenance of the strengthened fiscal stance; a deceleration of core inflation (excluding administered price adjustments) to 5% towards the end of the period; relative stability of the market-determined unified exchange rate; and significant progress toward external sector viability. For 1996, the program's real sector objectives include non-oil sector growth of 3% and a lowering of average core inflation to 20%.

In support of these objectives, the 1996 program entails forceful stabilization policies and structural reforms, including a significant further strengthening of the budget; auction sales of government treasury bills to allow for non-bank financing of the deficit; a tight credit policy; achievement of positive real interest rates; legal and institutional reforms to promote banking system re-intermediation and private sector activity and investment; unification of the exchange rate and adoption of a floating exchange rate regime; major trade and tariff reforms; and civil service and public enterprise reforms.

The budget is the key policy instrument to be used to promote stabilization, and to this end substantial discretionary fiscal measures are entailed to further reduce the conventional cash deficit to 32% of GDP from the 7% of 1995 and the 17% of 1994. In this regard, primary non-development expenditures are programmed to be reduced by 8% of GDP through wage bill containment, subsidy reductions, and general spending restraint. The wage bill will be reduced by 3% of GDP by limiting the general wage adjustment and initiating steps to reduce the size of the civil service, and with the substantial price adjustments introduced last week, subsidies are to be lowered by 5 percentage points of GDP.

In this respect, the weighted average price of the petroleum product consumption basket was increased by 80% following the 80% increase in 1995; the base prices for wheat and flour were raised by 150%; and electricity and water tariffs by 120%. Revenues meanwhile are to benefit from exchange rate unification and the initiation of reforms affecting corporate profits, personal income, and excise taxes.

This strong fiscal adjustment and the new scope for non-bank financing allowed by government treasury bill sales are expected to eliminate any need for government domestic bank borrowing. With this credit tightening, the increase in the banking system's net domestic assets will be limited to 7% of broad money compared with 18% in 1995 even though the authorities are targeting a substantial increase in credit to the private sector.

For page 6

Trade and tariff reforms have been implemented in one step to reduce effective protection to a reasonable level; enhance the economy's efficiency, investment and growth prospects; and strengthen its integration into the world economy. The trade liberalization component entailed the elimination of import licensing and replacement of import bans with tariffs except for non-economic reasons. The tariff reform substantially reduced the number of tariff bands as well as tariff rates. In conjunction with the tariff reform, all excise taxes have also been harmonized.

The Yemeni authorities intend to implement their privatization program aggressively with sixteen public enterprises targeted for privatization. The authorities also intend to begin to move most public sector enterprises to a financially self-supporting basis by granting them managerial, pricing, and hiring autonomy in order to reduce budget transfers to public enterprises and increase their profitability and contribution to budget resources.

To assist the private sector, the authorities intend to amend the Investment Law during 1996. They are presently studying the issues of eliminating investment licensing except where non-economic considerations apply, and replacing the existing corporate tax and import duty exemptions by a rationalized incentive structure. To enhance the legal environment for private sector activities, special courts are also to be established for commercial code enforcement.

The Government, moreover, is pursuing efforts to improve the social safety net and better target subsidies in order to limit the hardships that may result from price adjustments, the retrenchment of civil service staff, and other reform actions. In addition to maintaining food subsidies -- although at a reduced level -- interim measures have been adopted that should also help alleviate negative program effects. These include: a civil works program -- to be supported by World Bank financing -- in order to create income-generating employment for unskilled labor; adequate expenditure to GDP ratios for primary health care and primary and secondary education; and concessional first tranche pricing for electricity. The Government has also established a social safety net fund in this year's budget, for which it is seeking financial and in-kind contributions from donors.

In the external sector and consistent with the program's growth objectives, non-oil sector imports are targeted to rise by more than 20% following the severe compression of recent years. Largely as a result of this factor, the external current account deficit is expected to move into a deficit equivalent to 3.5% of GDP (nearly US \$200 million), and as the capital account deficit will remain sizable reflecting essentially continued large amortization obligations, the overall deficit is estimated at about US \$900 million -- 17.5% of GDP -- before accounting for debt rescheduling/restructuring or inflows of new balance of payments support.

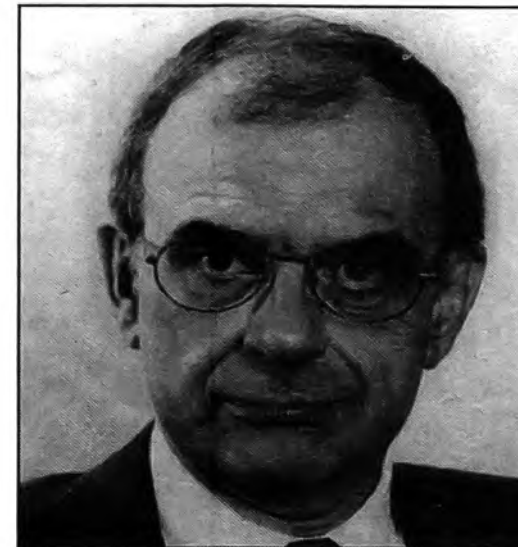
At present, Yemen's external debt is substantial at nearly US \$9 billion (or about 185% of GDP). The Russian Federation accounts for about 66% of this amount. The reform program provides for a prudent external debt management policy. No increase in short-term debt will be incurred on a net basis, and the contracting of nonconcessional medium- or long-term debt will be strictly monitored and limited. Also no new external arrears are to be incurred, and the Government will seek to eliminate existing arrears by end-June 1996, primarily through the rescheduling/restructuring of debt service obligations.

The scope and pace of the authorities' policy reform program is ambitious by any standard. Consequently, it needs to be supported by broadened and quickly available technical assistance. Recently under the joint UNDP/IMF program, technical assistance has been provided on tax policy and customs administration, oil sector accounting in the budget, and computerization of the Ministry of Finance, and is currently underway with regard to the Central Bank accounting.

The Fund also has provided technical assistance on expenditure control, treasury bill issuance, and operation of a floating exchange rates system. The UNDP/IMF program and the Fund have, moreover, been requested to provide extensive further technical assistance in the fiscal, monetary, statistical, and training areas during 1996. The analysis from this technical assistance will play an important role in the design, sequencing, and implementation of reforms under the program.

Carrying the program to full success will also require substantial financial support from the international community, given the magnitude of Yemen's external debt and debt service obligations relative to the economy's present capacity to earn foreign exchange. The 1996 program's total external financing requirement is large at US \$6.3 billion, reflecting primarily the substantial stock of accumulated external arrears (US \$5.2 billion) and the debt service obligations falling due this year (US \$0.8 billion). The Government expects that pipeline financing from multilateral and bilateral project loans -- including accelerated IDA disbursements -- and project and in-kind grants will contribute about US \$150 million toward meeting the program's financing requirements. In addition, new multilateral resources of about US \$270 million from the Fund (US \$145 million), IDA (US \$100 million), and the AMF (US \$25 million) are presently anticipated.

Let us add that, given the strength and quality of the adjustment, IMF management is recommending access to Fund resources equivalent to 60% of Yemen's quota at an annual rate, which is the top end of annual Fund access under its normal tranche policies. This leaves an overall external financing gap of US \$5.9 billion. To close most of this gap, the authorities intend to seek assistance from bilateral creditors. In this regard, contacts have already been made with the Russian Federation -- Yemen's largest creditor -- as well as the Paris Club Secretariat. They hope that the remaining financing gap of some US \$100 million will be met by commitments for quick-disbursing assistance made at this donors' meeting. In the view of the Fund staff, the authorities reform program is bold, far-reaching and convincing, and it will significantly improve the country's macroeconomic and structural conditions. Our recommendation is that the authorities' determined efforts merit international financial support that is commensurate with the strength and quality of Yemen's program.



J.P. PRONK  
Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation



ABDUL-QADER BA-JAMMAL  
Yemeni Minister of Development & Development

## Participants in in the Donors' Meeting in The Hague

### A: Organizations:

1. Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development (AFESD)
2. Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)
3. European Economic Commission (EEC)
4. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
5. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
6. Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
7. United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
8. World Bank (IBRD)

### B: Countries:

1. France,
2. Germany,
3. Italy,
4. Japan,
5. Korea (ROK),
6. The Netherlands,
7. United Kingdom,
8. United States of America,
9. Yemen.

## Communique of the Meeting

A Yemen donors meeting hosted by Jan Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Government of the Netherlands was held in The Hague, Netherlands on January 23, 1996. The meeting was co-chaired by the government of the Netherlands and the World Bank.

The delegation representing the government of Yemen informed the donors of the reform program that is being undertaken by the Government of Yemen and which aims at achieving economic stabilization and structural reforms that lay the basis for sustainable and equitable development in the medium and longer term.

The government of Yemen and donors also discussed the need for programs of support to address the social dimensions of reform and the longer term development objectives that are reflected in its five-year plan. Statements by the government of the Netherlands, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund indicated strong support for the government's reform program.

Multilateral, regional and bilateral donors attending the meeting commended the government of Yemen for the efforts that have been made and are being planned for further reducing fiscal imbalances and for undertaking a comprehensive reform program that would increase the role of the private sector in Yemen's economy and achieve higher rates of economic growth. Donors agreed with the need for social protection measures to mitigate the short term effects of the reform program, particularly for those segments of the population that in the short run are most affected, and for addressing the

longer term development challenges that face Yemen.

The meeting agreed that the successful implementation of the government's reform program, the social protection measures, and the longer term development effort of Yemen would require sustained external support. The meeting in particular reviewed the external financing needs for 1996.

In addition to bilateral creditor support for debt restructuring and debt relief, the total requirements for official financing for 1996 were estimated at about \$500 million. Based on indications from donors prior to and during the meeting it is expected that \$150 million will be available in project financing in 1996. As a result of the donors meeting, the remaining \$350 million required as exceptional financing has been successfully mobilized from donors, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Arab Monetary Fund, and several bilateral donors. Other donors also pledged to consider possibilities for new assistance to Yemen to help the government's development efforts. The government's reform program for 1996, whose implementation has already begun with the important measures taken by government, is thus assured of funding as a result of the meeting.

As regards financing for social protection measures, the government of Yemen informed the meeting that it has allocated an amount of one billion rials for urgent measures to support vulnerable groups that are most affected by the reform program. The World Bank indicated that its program of support would

include a \$25 million IDA credit for a civil works program that aims at providing short-term income producing employment to unskilled labor to help alleviate some of the social impact of adjustment. Other donors indicated that their programs of support for Yemen would include food aid. Donors also agreed to make a concerted effort to support the social protection fund established by the government.

Beyond the financing of the government's program for 1996, donors indicated a commitment to continue support in the medium-term to help Yemen achieve sustainable natural and human resources development, with better provision of social services, and programs to address critical water, environment and population issues, it was agreed in principle to convene a consultative group at a later stage to help mobilize support for the medium term development program.

The IMF indicated that it would consider a medium term facility in the course of 1996, provided performance under the program supported by the stand-by arrangement is strong, and the World Bank outlined a medium term program of increased assistance that it will shortly present to its board of directors.

With the prospect of at least about \$500 million in external financing for 1996, this first donors meeting for Yemen since government has embarked upon its reform program, initiated the process of a longer term relationship between Yemen and the donor community in support of the government's development objectives.

## Statement by the Representative of the IBRD

Mr. Inder Sud, Director, Middle Eastern Department

Over the last year or so, the Government of Yemen has demonstrated the political will and commitment to move forward with a comprehensive new program of economic stabilization and structural adjustment. A number of significant measures have already been taken and the program includes a range of additional policies and institutional reforms to be taken over the next few years. IDA and the International Monetary Fund have been working in tandem to support Yemen in designing and implementing its reform drive. My colleague, Mr. Paul Chabrier, representing the IMF, has spoken on the IMF's program in Yemen.

With respect to IDA's efforts, let me highlight some of the important features of the proposed Economic Recovery Credit on which we have been working closely with the Government over the past few months, and which we expect to present shortly to our Board for consideration.

An \$80 million credit will be IDA's first ever structural adjustment operation in Yemen. It is intended to build on the strong stabilization measures being supported by the IMF Stand-by Arrangement. It will buttress the first phase of structural reforms, which is expected to elicit the requisite supply response. More specifically, the Credit will support reforms relating to trade liberalization, privatization and public enterprise reform, pricing policies, and the regulatory framework - particularly with regard to the promotion of domestic and foreign private investment.

With respect to trade policy, the Economic Recovery Credit and the IMF Stand-by Arrangement will support the elimination of quantitative restrictions, and tariff reduction and simplification. Pricing policy reform will affect public utilities, petroleum products, and wheat. Regarding the regulatory framework, the operation focuses mainly on laws governing private investment, and the restructuring of the Government Investment Authority.

Recognizing that there may be interim social costs related to this adjustment process, the Economic Recovery Credit will also support social protection measures, including the maintenance of current budgetary expenditures in primary health and education, which are more heavily consumed by the poor. As a complement to this Credit, we also plan to support a Civil Works Project, which is currently being prepared, that would aim at creating income-generating employment during the adjustment period.

Both the IMF Stand-by Arrangement and the IDA Economic Recovery Credit support Yemen's stabilization and reform program. However, beyond this support, the viability of this program will also require additional donor support, and we will welcome donor participation and co-financing of both the Economic Recovery Credit and the Civil Works Project.

Moreover, in view of Yemen's large debt overhang, some form of bilateral debt restructuring will be critical. In addition to the support to be provided by the IMF and IDA, the debt relief, and the project assistance already committed, at this stage the financing plan for 1996 shows a residual gap of about \$100 million which requires exceptional balance of payments support. We hope that donors represented here today will be in a position to indicate contributions they can make towards the financing of this remaining gap. The Government of Yemen has launched a bold and ambitious economic program which requires the full support of the international community to succeed. I am very pleased to inform you that we are in the process of transferring to Yemen an amount of \$13.8 million in united funds from a special contribution from the Government of the Netherlands to a special IDA managed trust fund for Yemen, which should help in financing the gap.

### IDA's Program and Strategy

I am pleased to inform you that after a hiatus of nearly two years, we have recently reinitiated IDA lending to Yemen. This is in response to the Government's efforts in addressing key economic and portfolio implementation issues.

A couple of weeks ago, we signed a approved a \$24.3 million Credit for a Vocational Training Project, and a proposed \$37 million Credit for a Transport Rehabilitation Project will be presented for our board's consideration shortly. In all, with the proposed Economic Recovery Credit and Civil Works Project discussed above and possibly one further technical assistance project to support management of the oil and gas sector, total new IDA lending during our current fiscal year ending June 30 could total \$170 to 180 million. This level of lending is exceptional as it would represent a major increase from

annual levels of the last few years. It is an indication of our strong commitment to support Yemen's efforts in economic reform and reorientation of its economy towards achieving sustainable and equitable growth. Looking beyond our immediate support during our current fiscal year, we have also worked with our Yemeni colleagues in formulating a longer-term program of assistance which includes lending and policy advice. This proposed Country Assistance Strategy will be submitted to our Board for discussion very soon, and we have taken the opportunity of this meeting to share a summary with you prior to that discussion. We are recommending to our Executive Directors continued significant amount of assistance over the next three years, subject to availability of IDA resources. The strategy has three main objectives.

First, to support macroeconomic stabilization, structural reforms and social protection measures. Beyond the planned support for the Government's program that I have just outlined, our future assistance in this area would include projects that would specifically address poverty issues. We would also support further reforms with additional adjustment lending.

The second objective is to support improved portfolio implementation and the sustainability of past and future investments. Building on the results of the 1995 Portfolio Performance Review, our Resident Mission, which has been expanded with staff dedicated exclusively to implementation, would play a key role in helping the Government execute the Portfolio Improvement Plan. To this end, we plan to hold annual reviews with the Government to further ensure results on the ground.

One key activity towards achieving this second objective is a comprehensive Public Expenditure Review which would help prepare for future fiscal reform and the design of a medium term public investment program. Working closely with the Yemeni authorities, the review would look at the evolving economic role of government in Yemen, and would assess expenditure composition and efficiency. It would cover cross-cutting issues such as: employment and wages; subsidies; financial relations with public enterprises, including utilities; macro-economic aspects of the public investment program; sectoral expenditure policies; the adequacy of social expenditures; and public expenditure planning and management. We would be pleased to present the findings of this review to a Consultative Group Meeting that we would be willing to convene at a later stage. We envisage that such Meeting would build on the results of this meeting and consolidate donor support for Yemen so as to help ensure successful implementation of the next stages of the economic program on which the country has embarked. We also hope that the review would provide useful input for the Five-Year Plan being developed by our Yemeni colleagues.

The third main objective of our strategy is to help promote sustainable natural and human resources development. As you are all aware, Yemen faces a number of key development challenges that need to be addressed for development to be sustainable. At current rates, Yemen's population would double in less than twenty years, making it even harder to achieve sustained progress in improving standards of living and addressing the social challenges that Yemen faces. It would put concomitant pressures on natural resources, already degraded and under severe stress. Our assistance program would aim at helping Government address this whole range of issues.

In this respect, beyond what is discussed in the document, I would like to draw your attention to a growing matter of utmost concern to Yemen, and, indeed, to the whole Middle East as well -- namely water. Yemen is one of the most water-deprived countries in the world. Addressing the water imperative will require a well-coordinated effort between the Government of Yemen and the international donor community.

IDA, for its part, is ready to play a catalytic role in this endeavor. We began working with the Government and donors to help develop a comprehensive water sector strategy, which we hope will lead to a concrete water action plan. In addition, we stand ready to help the Government develop a medium-term investment program for the water sector, and provide some funding for it. However, the challenges and needs are large. Donor cooperation and assistance, perhaps through a special donors' meeting for water, or a sub-group of a possible future CG, will be crucial to the success of this effort.



# The UAE's Cultural Foundation: A Leading Intellectual Powerhouse in the Region

"Most of the academic and research institutions of the Arab region have failed to attain any level of professionalism and excellence at the world level. The Cultural Foundation (CF) here in Abu Dhabi, however, stands out. We are pushing ahead with quality research on various social, cultural and other activities," explained Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Suwaidi, the CF Secretary-General.

But it is not the past that interests the CF. It also engages heavily in the discovery and development of talents and intellectual capability. Thus, the artists (painters, poets, musicians, calligraphists, etc.) discovered and nurtured by the foundation have today become big names in the market.

The Cultural Foundation was established in the mid-1980s, witnessed a real boost when the young Al-Suwaidi took over in 1987. "Our activities are grouped under four bodies. These are the Institution of Culture and Arts, the National Library, the Documentation and Research Center, and the National Archives," he said.

The Institution of Culture and Arts engages in lectures, seminars, symposiums, acting, calligraphy and poetry competitions, book/photo/painting exhibitions, computer and languages courses, in-door decoration workshops, cinema shows. "Many of the institution's programs are in big demand," Al-Suwaidi stated. The Institution had invited the famous Yemeni poet, Abdullah Al-Baraddoni, and the outstanding singers Abubakar Bilfaqeeh and Al-Mihdhar.

The National Library houses more than 2.1 million titles, with new acquisitions every week. The library also has over four thousand original manuscripts and documents, 100 photocopied documents, as well as numerous doctoral and master's theses. "We also have specialized sections like the children's library, audio-visual department and the computer/internet section," he indicated.

The Documentation and Research Center has been described by the UNESCO as "a leading Arab institution which is actively involved in proper, methodic documentation of ... history". This center is engaged in collecting, editing, and authentication of documents, maps, films, agreements, etc. "It is also actively involved in collection and preservation of oral bedouin traditions and narrative history."

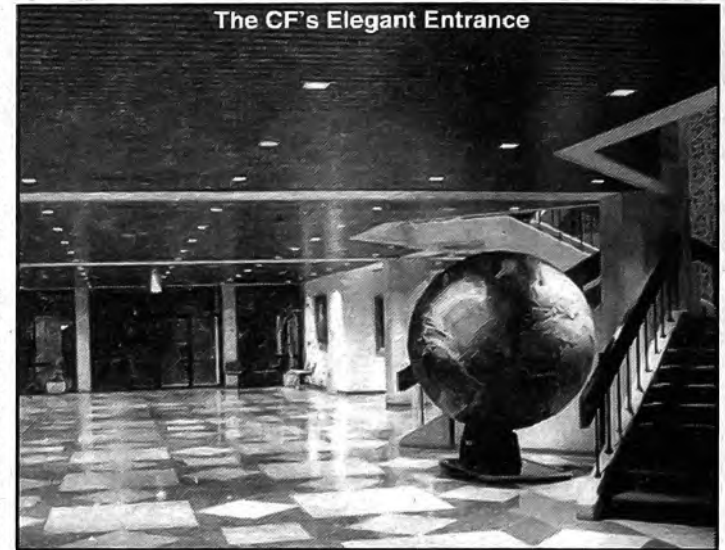
The Center has gone to numerous Arab countries to investigate and document the rich history and local documents. "We have done a lot of work within the Gulf region, in Egypt, and in Yemen. We are now considering work in other regions," he said.

Finally, the National Archives is pre-occupied with museums, historic relics and sites, etc.



Unlike the case in many other foundations in the region, the UAE Cultural Foundation has been able to develop a strong sense of mission and duty among its team of staff. "I am most proud of the spirit that regulates our work attitudes and ethics. This is not a one-man show. It is the effort of a large number of people who are dedicated to excellence and professionalism," Secretary-General Al-Suwaidi said.

There is one more thing. "Since the Abbasside Caliphate, we in the Arab region have failed to develop a proper educational system. In all Arab countries, the effort is mediocre. That is why we in the CF have been working for a few years now to develop a model educational school and system..." he said. Now, the model project is almost ready. It extends from the physical



The CF's Elegant Entrance

The Cultural Foundation's main building is located in the business district of Abu Dhabi



design and outlay of a school - including classrooms, playgrounds, facilities, etc. - to the curricula and teaching aids. It also includes a vision of what a teacher should be. "By the year 2000, the CF hopes to inaugurate a school at each of the educational levels," he said.

One of the key issues raised by Mohammed Al-Suwaidi is that the Arab individual is not a good reader. "Publishing is not one of the flourishing enterprises. Authors are not able to publish in large volumes because the Arab individual is not given to reading. We are trying hard to teach children at a young age the virtues of reading," he said.

Another key issue is the need for more freedom for authors and literary works in the Arab World. "We need more flexibility on the part of states in terms of the movement and exchange of creative works, literature, arts, etc. This is also true for the media, which is important by its own right, and also as a carrier of knowledge. The Arab systems must show tolerance and understanding for intellectual products," he concluded.

Towards achieving its goals, the CF not only does it employ high-caliber scholars, but it also offers scholarships to serious researchers.

By the year 2000, the Cultural Foundation of the Emirates is poised to become a leading intellectual powerhouse in the region.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqaf

## Sex & Marriage in Islam

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Sanaa Bureau Chief,  
Yemen Times.

The word *Ehsan* has been used in the Qur'an for marriage. *Ehsan* is derived from the word *Hasn* meaning a fortress. *Ehsan*, therefore, means getting inside the safety and protection of a fort. Married male and female are termed as *mohsan* and *mohsana* respectively, which means one who has secured himself/herself within the walls of a fortress. The safety and protection implied in the words *mohsan* and *mohsana* obviously do not refer to the physical safety and protection of a man or woman.

These refer to the protection from immoral behavior. Through the marriage contract, men and women secure for themselves a legitimate and clean channel for satisfying their natural sexual urge, and thus fortify their moral behavior against promiscuity and infidelity.

This has been emphasized in various places in the Qur'an. Surat al-Nisa, verses 24 and 25 and Surat al-Mayidah, verse 5 warn against lust while they praise marriage-based sexual relations.

Another purpose of establishing the institution of marriage is to promote love, affection and goodwill between the two sexes which constitute the human race. This provides a base for the mutual cooperation and joint effort required to achieve the

objectives of the institution of marriage. The Qur'an says:

"And among His signs is that He has created mates for you among yourselves so that you may get solace in each other's company and He has set love and compassion between you"

(Surat Al-Room, verse 21) and "It is of course He who created you out of one living soul and made a mate of like nature so that you may get peace and solace in your mate's company." (Surat Al-A'raf, verse 188).

The intimacy and exclusivity embodied in the concept of marriage-based sex in Islam is also reflected in the laws and regulations governing marriage and its dissolution.

### Woman as Wife

"The best one among you is he who is good and kind to his wife/family."

"The world and all things in it are valuable, and the most precious of them all is a virtuous wife."

"O people you have rights over your wives and your wives have rights over you. Treat your wives right. (Love with) has been made lawful unto you by the words of God." (Sermon of the Mount)

"The rights of women are sacred. See, therefore, that women are maintained fully according to the rights granted to them."

Spouse relations in Islam have three dimensions:

- 1- Before marriage
- 2- After marriage and

3- Dissolution of marriage and after.

### Before Marriage

While it is, figuratively speaking, true that it is the father or, in the absence of the father, another guardian who formally gives the girl in marriage to a man, the consent of a previously-married woman given by free will is a prerequisite for the solemnization of a valid marriage in Islam.

It is after obtaining such consent in the presence of two witnesses that the father or the guardian can offer to give a woman in marriage to a suitor, whose acceptance completes the solemnization of the marriage.

However, for a previously unmarried woman (girl), it is not necessary that the consent be given in audible words. If the girl/woman keeps quiet when her consent is asked for, it is assumed she has consented.

In case of previously-married women, the medium of a guardian is not even necessary although desirable. She has the right to offer herself in marriage to a person of her choice and when accepted, the marriage would stand solemnized. The only condition here is that the offer and acceptance along with the fixation of dower amount should be in the presence of a minimum of two witnesses - the more the better.

Sex before marriage is a sin, and is condemned and punished as such.

### Married Life:

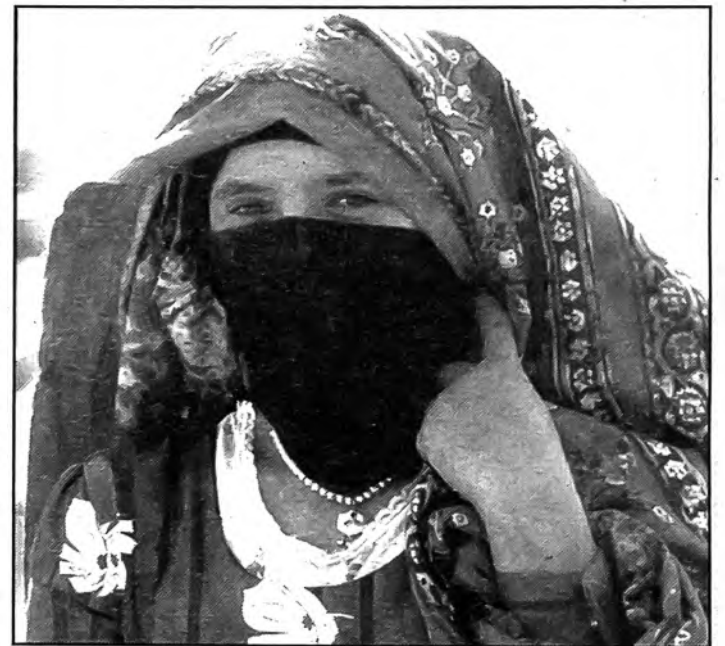
Within the family, the status and relationship between spouses is clearly defined in Islam. The husband is the leader of the family unit. The husband has been conferred the status of *qawwam* - partner in charge. Allah has ordained it unambiguously in the Qur'an in the following verse:

"Men are the *qawwam* over women as God has conferred superiority on one over the other and because they (husbands) spend their wealth (for their maintenance) on them." (Surat Al Nisa, verse 34)

It would be desirable to make a few brief observations on this point. This is called for because some protagonists of equality between males and females use this verse to attack Islam.

In all situations which bring two or more individuals, there has to be someone in whom, in case of difference of opinion, final say must rest. This is neither arbitrary nor high-handedness. The conferment of the status of *qawwam* on the husband vis-a-vis the wife is just a simple practical proposition which in no way means degrading women and does not at all warrant any criticism in the name of equality. It does not lower the standing and status of the wife in society. It does not make the wife a second class member of the household.

Islam has given women the right to acquire and hold property in



their name, do business, etc.. In respect of all such property which the wife acquires on her own, for example, through inheritance from her parents or other relatives, or through gifts from any source, or earns through her own skill and labor, or even what she gets from her husband, she has the absolute right of enjoyment and disposal over the same. She can do whatever she likes with it, spend/invest/give it away and the husband has no say whatsoever in it.

Sex between spouses is praised in Islam. Sex is seen as a two-way enjoyment which should fulfill the need of both partners. Even in situations where the urge is one-sided, however, a spouse is asked to yield to the other.

### Extra Marital Sex

Extra-marital sex is forbidden in Islam. If spouses cannot share their lives together, Islam sanctioned divorce as a solution. Many individuals quickly remarry, because it is far easier to consummate a marriage between divorcees. No guardians are required, the dowry is much smaller, and the fanfare and celebrations are much limited. The status of divorcee is seen in Islam as a temporary phase, and the natural status is to be married.

Extra-marital sex is termed adultery and is punished severely - can reach death by stoning.

During daytime in Ramadhan, spouses may not indulge in sex.

Next week,  
more on Islam and Marriage

## UAE Etisalat's "Al-Thuraiyah" Project to Cost \$1 Billion

The Board of Directors of United Arab Emirates Telecommunications Corporation, Etisalat, last Thursday (January 25th) reviewed "Al-Thuraiyah" project to serve mobile telecommunication services costing a sum of one billion US dollars.

The facility works as a regional system serving mobile telecommunication systems on a fixed orbit around the globe, and provides roaming voice, data, fax and location demarking facilities covering a large number of Arab states, India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, East Europe, the Mediterranean and Red Sea, the Arabian Gulf and Arabian Sea.

Ali Salem Al Oweis, Director General of Etisalat, said Al-Thuraiyah will provide telecommunication services to rural and remote areas and islands and will benefit mining and oil firms. It is also cost effective and a highly efficient system. He added that Etisalat has established a special department to service the project.

The Board also reviewed the development of the fiber optic network since 1986. The network is now considered to be one of the most advanced fiber optic networks worldwide and Etisalat's fiber optic network linking the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait through the submarine cable will enter service in mid-1997.

Etisalat, a joint government-private share-holding company, is also a subscriber to a number of unlimited cables providing digital links with most parts of the world, particularly financial centers in the East and West through two projects "Flaj" and "Se Me We 3" which will enter service in 1997 and 1998, respectively. The UAE will also be linked with Saudi Arabia through a territorial fiber optic cable.

The corporation installed some 57,000 new telephone lines in 1995, raising the total number of telephone lines at the end of 1995 to 672,000. Total international telephone lines reached 6,919 at the end of 1995 as against 6,291 in 1994, showing an increase of 10%. The UAE has direct international telephone service with some 238 countries.

The Board also reviewed a new service showing the number of the calling party before answering the call. The 'Clip Facility' service will be introduced gradually starting from the beginning of this year. The service also provides a record of all incoming calls even if unanswered.

The Board finally reviewed the performance of the corporation in 1995 and announced distribution of dividends for the second half of the year to shareholders at the rate of 25% of the face value of the shares.

## PRESIDENT HERZOG AFTER SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO ETHIOPIA, HEADS TO ERITREA & UGANDA

By: Afrah Mohammed,  
Yemen Times, Addis Ababa.

The Honorable Roman Herzog, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, arrived here on Thursday, January 25th, on a state visit to Ethiopia for seven days.

He came to Addis Ababa upon the invitation of Ethiopian President Dr. Negasso Gidada. A high level German delegation which includes Dr. Klaus Kinkel, Foreign Minister, and Mr. Carl Dieter Spranger, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development.

The German head of state and the accompanying delegation laid down corner-stones for a German school and a textile factory - both to be built in Addis Ababa with German assistance. The German president visit to Ethiopia is one leg of a trip that will take him also to Eritrea and Uganda. President Herzog expressed his country's unrestrained support for the transformation and democratization process in those countries.

In a state dinner hosted by the Ethiopian president in honor of his German guest, Dr. Negasso said that beyond the economic and technical assistance, Germany has much to offer in terms of political structure and administrative system. "I want to point to the successful federal system of Germany," he said.

He said, "Ethiopia looks forward with great confidence to strengthen cooperation between the two countries so that they could both contribute to the consolidation and growth of their societies, and for a safer and more prosperous world."

The German President on his part said, that the progress on democratization achieved by Ethiopia to date was all the more remarkable, given its recent beginnings. He also praised the vibrant and active of the government and the opposition.

President Herzog then reaffirmed German interest and support adding that his country is willing to actively assist in Ethiopia's development. Mr. Herzog appreciated Ethiopia's mediation efforts and balanced policy and cooperation, in the horn of Africa and the region as a whole, which he said gives the country "a good international reputation and standing."

Prime Minister Melles Zenawi and President Herzog said that they had been fully satisfied with the efforts made so far by the governments of the two countries in consolidating bilateral relations and cooperation.

Referring to the rising amount of economic aid, Germany is giving to Ethiopia, Prime Minister Melles said such assistance is needed in the future and will particularly be directed towards the training of manpower.

Prime Minister Zenawi said that effective implementation of the five year development plan is the first priority of his government.

The Prime Minister then pointed to the ample opportunities for German investments in Ethiopia in various fields. He called on German investors to engage in joint ventures.

President Herzog on his part assured his country will do every thing possible to help Ethiopia achieve its desire goals of economic prosperity.

The two officials also discussed the prevailing situation in the Red Sea, the Horn of Africa, and the region in general. In his capacity as the current chairman of the OAU, Prime Minister Melles called on countries of the European Union to engage Africa in its thrust towards democratizations and development.

President Herzog and the accompanying delegation then met members of the House of People's Representatives. He expressed delight at the strong opposition presence and its active participation in the country's affairs. He noted that although Ethiopia democratic experience is recent, it has started on the right course, and no one single individual or group exercises preponderant dominance over the country.

German Foreign Minister Dr. Klaus Kinkel made public that the German government will give unreserved support for Ethiopia's effort to maintain peace in the troubled areas of Africa. He also expressed German support for Ethiopia's role in bringing peace and stability to the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

Dr. Kinkel met and discussed with Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin regional and international issues. He then explicitly expressed appreciation and support for the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in its drive to find peaceful solutions to the political problems in Somalia, and resolve the dispute between Eritrea and Yemen over Hunaish island.

Dr. Kinkel said his country would immediately start to strengthen existing bilateral relations and consolidate economic and political cooperation.

"It is refreshing to witness the selfless effort of the top officials of Ethiopia and their drive to transform their country. I express full support for their serious commitment to democracy, pluralism and press freedom," he said. He said he found pledges were matched by deeds.

## IRAN Fights Off US Covert Action

Last week, Iran's Government unveiled a US\$ 20 million allocation to "uncover and neutralize" an American covert effort against it. The project, attached to President Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani's office, seeks to counter a not-so-secret American operation to destabilize Iran.

On December 31st, the US Congress passed a bill authorizing intelligence spending of US\$ 18 million on an operation

aimed at "changing the behavior of the Iranian government". The person behind the operation is US House Speaker Newt Gingrich, whom Iranian parliamentarians have described as "not a balanced person".

The US government had attempted a similar covert action in 1986, when it tried to ship in arms to the opponents of the regime. That arms affair failed miserably, and led to more tension between the two sides.

Since the clergymen came to power in 1979, Iran has been at loggerheads with the USA. The Americans have recently tried to isolate Iran by subjecting it to a trade embargo. Most of the US allies, however, refused to participate in the trade arrangements against Iran.

Iran worries that its dispute with the UAE over the islands of Tomb Al-Kubra, Tomb Al-Sughra and Abu Moussa could be used as a pretext to attack it.

## Cont'd from page 16 When the State Pushes...

At this very moment, the whole Hadharem village is converted into a concentration camp. The 400 soldiers are making all kinds of violations against the civilian population, notably:

1. The violent and brutal occupation by the army and security forces of a civilian population residing in Hadharem village.
2. Men in military uniforms pillaged and plundered the villagers' homes, slaughtering their livestock and taking away whatever they can carry.
3. Laying siege to the whole village, and placing the whole population under house arrest.
4. Confiscation of all assets of the Women's Development Center.
5. Extorting money from the villagers.

6. Terrorizing the whole population.

7. Soldiers breaking into and occupying private homes in the village.

It looks like the politicians who run the country have gone bankrupt. They are unable to tolerate simple and peaceful differences in opinion. They are busy setting traps for independent personalities and opposition politicians to liquidate them or at least disqualify them and put them out public life.

The incidents with the HWA are a clear indicator that peaceful competition of ideas in Yemen is no longer possible. The talk about pluralism and freedom of expression have become hollow, as the rulers force more and more people under their wings.

### Preparing for the 1997 Elections

The Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy and the Institute for Futures Studies are jointly organizing a seminar on Wednesday evening (1/2/1996) at the offices of the Grain Corporation. Politicians will present views on how to best safeguard the elections against fraud and irregularities.



### ألف مبروك

نبارك للاخ  
حسن أحمد سالم الحميدي  
بمناسبة زواجه  
مع تميئاته له بحةاة زوجية سعيدة .  
المهندون : طاقم أرامكس ، علي أحمد  
الحميدي ، فهمي نبيل ، أنور الصيادي .



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## Le conflit Yémen - Erythrée

### Article 19

de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'Homme. "Tout individu a droit à la liberté d'opinion et d'expression, ce qui implique le droit de ne pas être inquiété pour ses opinions et celui de chercher, de recevoir, et de répandre, sans considérations de frontières, les informations et les idées par quelque moyen d'expression que ce soit".

### en bref

**CHIFFRE** — Yasser Arafat élu président de l'Autorité nationale palestinienne avec 88,1 % des suffrages.

**GONFLABLE** — Pas de poupée gonflable dans la cellule. Ainsi en a décidé un tribunal israélien, rejetant le recours d'un prisonnier. "Il me faut une poupée gonflable pour réduire la tension sexuelle", a expliqué, en vain, le détenu. Raison du refus de la cours : le risque de jalousie entre détenus, et celui de la propagation des MST.

**SATAN** — 1050 antennes paraboliques ont été saisies en Iran. Importées par des contrebandiers, elles étaient camouflées dans un camion-citerne. Les antennes satellitaires, qualifiées de "sat-aniques" par de doux islamistes à l'indéniable sens de la mesure, sont interdites en Iran depuis avril dernier. Elles sont accusées de faire pénétrer la "dépravation occidentale" dans les foyers iraniens.

**OBÈSE** — Les Français grossissent. Un sur six peut aujourd'hui être considéré comme obèse, selon le dernier rapport d'un organisme de recherche dans le domaine de la santé, le CREDES. On estime que 100.000 personnes — plus que de décès liés au tabagisme — meurent chaque année en France de complications liées à l'obésité. hypercholestérol, diabète, apnées respiratoires, infarctus... "L'obésité doit être d'urgence déclarée comme un problème de santé publique", réclament des spécialistes.

**GÂCHIS** — Trois mosquées du Caire, datant de l'époque fatimide, viennent de perdre toute authenticité. La faute à une secte chiite, qui a entrepris la restauration de ces monuments historiques classés sur la liste du patrimoine mondial. Les Boharas en ont gommé tout ce qui était postérieur à l'époque des fatimides, dynastie ismaélienne dont ils se réclament. L'UNESCO vient de tirer la sonnette d'alarme. (AFP)

**Toute collaboration, quelle qu'elle soit, est bienvenue** (lettre, humour, reportage, correspondance, anecdote, littérature... sur quel que sujet que ce soit). Les documents mis à disposition du journal le sont gracieusement. Ils ne sont rendus que sur demande. Toute correspondance doit préciser noms et adresses. Contact : François Petitdemange, Yemen Times. Tél : 268.661/2. Fax : 268.663. P.O. Box : 2579, Sana'a, Yémen.

# Pompiers-pyromanes

D'un côté, la France offre sa médiation. De l'autre, elle vend des armes. Et pendant que les Yéménites se serrent la ceinture, leurs dirigeants trouvent les moyens d'en acheter.

**Sana'a.** — Pour de l'argent, ces gens-là vendraient leur mère. En attendant, ils vendent des armes. Ils amasseraient une fortune en faisant commerce de leur hypocrisie.

La France, pays du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, poussée par Boutros Boutros-Ghali, avec l'accord tacite des Américains qui "n'y voient pas d'inconvénients", et en discrète collaboration avec l'Égypte, vient donc officiellement de proposer ses services de médiateur dans le cadre du conflit opposant le Yémen et l'Erythrée sur l'archipel des Hunaish. La "mission exploratoire", c'est-à-dire de premiers contacts, à la mi-janvier, s'était pourtant achevée sur un constat d'échec. Mais on voyait difficilement la France rebrousser chemin après ces premiers pas. Et après les discours indécrottablement optimistes.

Le lundi 15 janvier, Francis Gutmann, émissaire français pour la circonstance, déclarait : "Je crois profondément qu'un règlement pacifique est possible". On montait alors

d'un degré dans la déclaration d'optimisme : voilà qu'on le croyait "pro-fondément".

Dans le même sens, le souvenir des déclarations officielles du ministère des Affaires étrangères français ne laisse aucune place au doute : le mardi 19 décembre 1995, Paris souhaitait officiellement que le Yémen et l'Erythrée trouvent "rapidement les solutions pacifiques sur la base du droit international". Le porte-parole du ministère appelait les "deux pays amis à faire montre de la plus grande retenue". On ne peut pas être plus clair.

On ne peut surtout pas être plus hypocrite : le Yémen viendrait en effet d'acheter deux vedettes à... la France. Nous n'avons pas plus de précisions ni sur le type des bateaux, ni sur leur prix. Mais même s'il ne s'agit que de zodiaks de 15 mètres de long, comme on nous l'a affirmé, l'information est suffisamment grave pour qu'on ne la passe pas sous silence.

La chose est d'autant plus cynique

que la position officielle de la France en cas de conflit ne sera pas forcément en faveur du Yémen. N'oublions pas que l'Erythrée compte 50 % de chrétiens, et n'oublions pas la Guerre du Golfe et ses séquelles.

Passons sur le cas de la France. Un marchand de canons est un marchand de canons... Le cas du Yémen est autrement plus préoccupant. Ce pays qui sort d'une guerre civile meurtrière, il y a un an et demi ; ce pays qui ne parvient pas à quitter sa léthargie économique, pays où le salaire moyen est ridiculement bas, et où les prix viennent de passer du simple au double ; ce pays où les plus pauvres ne mangent pas à leur faim, aurait donc les moyens de supporter une nouvelle guerre, et ceux d'acheter des armes.

Car les deux vedettes françaises ne sont pas les seules acquisitions yéménites. Deux autres vedettes auraient été achetées à la Chine, le Yémen renforçant ainsi une faiblesse de son armée : la marine. Il aurait

également commandé divers armements à divers fournisseurs, type pays d'Europe de l'Est, toujours prêts à rendre service. Quelques commandements auraient déjà été livrés, si l'on en croit certains avions qui ont survolé Sana'a cette semaine.

Avec quel argent le Yémen paie-t-il ? Mystère. En matière d'armement, pour acheter français, il faut avoir les moyens : la maison ne fait pas crédit, ça se paie cash.

Il est toutefois possible que certaines armes n'aient pas été achetées, mais gracieusement offertes par ceux qui en ont intérêt. Mais qui peut bien avoir intérêt à ce que ces deux pauvres pays s'auto-détruisent ? Où les dirigeants yéménites eux-mêmes, et d'abord le président Saleh, trouveraient-ils une quelconque motiva-

tion à envoyer leur peuple au massacre, et leur pays à la faillite ?

Une chose est sûre pourtant : le Yémen prépare la guerre, et les ambassades le rapatriement de leurs ressortissants, ambassade de France en tête. Elle fait bien : ceux qui l'ont vécu se souviennent encore avec amertume du dernier rapatriement en date.

En attendant, la situation pourrait rester calme quelque temps. Il faut patienter pour la livraison des commandes. On peut raisonnablement être tranquille avant la fin du Ramadan. Et peut-être peut-on laisser une chance à la médiation française. La situation devrait pouvoir rester calme pendant quelque temps. Mais jusque quand ?

François Petitdemange

## Economie - social

# Prêts et gestes

500 millions de \$ de promesse de prêts. Atténuer certaines mesures.

**Sana'a.** — Chose promise, chose due ? 500 millions de dollars de promesse de dons pour l'année 1995. C'est ce que vient de recevoir le Yémen au cours d'une réunion des pays donateurs, mardi dernier à La Haye. 500 millions, tout juste ce qu'il espérait avant la réunion. Le problème étant que ce ne sont que des promesses, les observateurs internationaux à Sana'a restant soit circonspects, soit totalement en désaccord sur la valeur réelle de ce chiffre.

Les Yéménites sont beaucoup moins regardant. Le ministre de la Planification et du Développement, Abdel Kader Bajammal, s'est déclaré "très satisfait" à l'issue de la réunion. L'argent récolté permettra de financer une première phase du programme de redressement quinquennal engagé par le Yémen, "qui nécessitera, selon M. Bajammal, un effort total d'au moins 4 milliards de dollars, hors investissements pétroliers et gaziers". La première phase de ce programme portera notamment sur le rééquilibrage de la balance des paiements, auquel 350 millions de dollars seront consacrés, ainsi que sur des projets de développement du réseau d'approvisionnement en eau et des réformes du système éducatif, qui aura droit à 150 millions.

Le tout sous le regard big-brotherien de l'inévitable Banque Mondiale. Selon son directeur pour le Moyen-Orient, Inder Sud, l'institution financière internationale créera "un groupe consultatif sur le Yémen", chargé "d'évaluer au deuxième semestre" les résultats de cette première phase. La BM assure déjà le suivi du programme de redressement économique, dont elle est l'instigatrice, et veillera "à son financement futur par les bailleurs de fonds", en fonction, bien sûr, des bonnes notes que le Yémen recevra (ou non) de ce groupe consultatif.

La réunion de La Haye a également été l'occasion d'évoquer un rééchelonnement de la dette yéménite, qui s'élève à 6,2 milliards de dollars, selon M. Bajammal. Le ministre a fait valoir que 70 % de ce montant était constitué par des factures impayées à l'ex-URSS, "notamment pour du matériel militaire qui avait entre-temps été

détruit". "Je compte me rendre en Russie prochainement pour entamer des négociations directes sur cette question, a déclaré M. Bajammal, et ferai tout mon possible pour parvenir à un accord satisfaisant, avant de soumettre une demande de rééchelonnement au club de Paris".

On voit que le Yémen, sur le plan économique, a encore beaucoup de travail. Le déficit budgétaire s'élève à quelque 100 millions de dollars. Le réduire est une des conditions du FMI à l'obtention d'une aide du FMI et de la BM de 700 millions de dollars sur 3 ans, qui viendraient s'ajouter à l'aide consentie par les pays donateurs. C'est donc sous cette pression — le déficit budgétaire devrait être réduit de 32,4 % — que le Yémen a procédé récemment à ces dramatiques hausses de prix, et à la suppression de subventions sur le blé et la farine, provoquant la hausse du prix du pain (de 2 à 5 rials).

Devant les tensions au sein de la population, les dirigeants cherchent des solutions pour atténuer certaines conséquences. Les boulangeries de l'armée ont ainsi été mises à contribution pour produire de grandes quantités de pain afin de faire baisser les prix.

Le prix du litre de fioul est également redescendu, à 6 rials — il était passé de 3 à 9 rials le 15 janvier. Il s'agit pour le gouvernement d'éviter que la production des agriculteurs et les prix de leurs produits soient trop affectés. Ces petites atténuations n'empêchent pas la grogne de se développer dans la population. La tension est parfois vive dans certains endroits du Yémen. Un affrontement armé entre forces de l'ordre et ouvriers yéménites a ainsi fait cinq morts et huit blessés dans la province de Mahrah (sud-est). Des policiers en faction dans le port de Nashtout, et chargés de superviser le déchargement et la distribution équitable des denrées à la population, se sont heurtés aux ouvriers au sujet d'une cargaison de produits alimentaires. La dispute a rapidement dégénéré en accrochage armé. Un exemple parmi d'autres. La tension est vive dans tout le pays. Le printemps sera chaud.

F.P. (avec AFP)

## Enlèvement de 17 Français à Mareb

# Vacances rêvées

Mareb n'est pas sûr. L'enlèvement de touristes par les tribus, entre imprudence et insécurité.

**Sana'a.** — Tous les (vrais) spécialistes vous le dirons : on ne va pas à Mareb en bus, on y va en 4x4. Simple bon sens : pour pouvoir évacuer dare-dare en cas de problèmes. A Mareb, plus qu'ailleurs, la Jambia ne suffit pas : la Kalachnikov est de rigueur. Les check-points et contrôles policiers y sont plus sévères, l'accueil moins chaleureux, et même les enfants, si sympathiques partout ailleurs au Yémen, n'y sont jamais très amicaux.

Mareb reste pourtant un passage obligé de tout circuit touristique qui se respecte. Les textes sacrés désignent l'endroit comme celui de la demeure de Bilqis, la légendaire reine de Saba.

L'Agence touristique yéménite qui conduisait le groupe de Français n'a manifestement pas pris les risques en considération, alors même que la tension était vive depuis une bonne semaine. Jeudi matin, les deux bus qui ramenaient les touristes à Sana'a, avant leur départ pour la France, qui était prévu vendredi matin, ont été arrêtés par quatre hommes armés. Ces membres de la tribu des al-Aslam ont fait descendre les chauffeurs, et conduits eux-mêmes les véhicules vers le village de Ain (province de Chabwa). Leur revendication : la libération d'un des membres de la tribu, condamné à la prison pour avoir enlevé, l'été dernier, un Américain avec lequel il avait un conflit financier.

Les problèmes de ce genre ne sont



Mareb ne rime plus avec tourisme, mais tribus et enlèvements.

pas rares, du côté de Mareb. Les compagnies pétrolières y perdent régulièrement quelques 4x4. La veille même de l'enlèvement, un employé de Total aurait évité de justesse le sort de ses compatriotes : il n'a dû son salut qu'à la prévenance d'un ami yéménite.

Depuis 1992, plus d'une vingtaine de touristes ont été enlevés par différentes tribus, pour des motifs divers, mais toujours dans le même but : faire pression sur le gouvernement. Début 94, trois Français avaient déjà été enlevés par des membres armés de la tribu des Ahnoun : la tribu réclamait le passage d'une nouvelle route sur son territoire. Les otages avaient été

relâchés trois semaines plus tard.

C'est également un trait commun à toutes ces affaires : les otages sont toujours très bien traités. Dans le cas présent, ils ont été logés dans des maisons du village où leurs ravisseurs les ont conduits, et traités "comme des hôtes", selon le gouverneur de la province. Des notables tribaux de la région ont assuré que les Français étaient libres de se promener dans le village et ses vergers, et qu'ils n'étaient pas tenus d'observer le jeûne du Ramadan. Ce qui est heureux pour des touristes dont la moyenne d'âge, comme souvent au Yémen, est plutôt élevée : le plus jeune a 48 ans, et le plus vieux... 85.

F.P.

# THE DIFFERENT FACES OF WORKING CHILDREN

Most people probably think nothing of those little boys and girls parading their wares on the streets ... chewing gum, newspapers ... hair combs, you name it ... or the boys and now even girls rushing to wipe one's windscreen as one stops at traffic lights. ... or the street urchins seeming to be everywhere, sometimes at the same time ... that little one with the cunning face or that one with the tear-streaked one with all the pathos of humanity written all over her face. One thought one saw her at Zubairi Street five minutes ago... but the truth is, one loses count for those pathetic little faces are all over the place. Children struggling to make a living on the streets. ... some in a more dignified manner and others forced by adults to the not so dignified albeit tough profession of begging.

The whole issue of child labor is so complex that whatever is said in its connection is bound to sound over-simplistic. Much has been written on the subject in different countries where the more sinister form of child labor is documented like the famous carpet children in Asian countries which has aroused great concern in international circles who have in turn called for massive campaigns to eliminate child labor. Working children the world over have been subjected to extreme cruelty in some form or another and been open to abuse ranging from abuse from drug-traffickers to being chained to weaving looms for hours. In Yemen, perhaps because the phenomenon has not as yet degenerated into anything like the situation of the carpet children, no attention has ever been paid to the issue of child labor even though there may be cause for alarm even in the seemingly harmless jobs in garages and mills.

Our attitude toward working children is greatly influenced by the socio-cultural definition of childhood itself, and here I am thinking of children's normal contribution to domestic work within the family, or in farming activities, etc., which often go unrecognized as child labor because children do not receive any form of remuneration for their services. In most traditional societies, children are expected to contribute their services to the family, whereas in the western world, in most middle-class family settings, the opposite extreme may be true. Poverty has often been cited as a major predisposing factor to child labor, but as I said earlier on, social attitudes do influence at least the numbers and in this connection one thinks of the common practice of fathers desiring their sons to follow the family trade or business even within the not so poor families. Schooling is another important determinant of child labor and the school drop-out rate is related to child labor. However, this connection is not always as simple as it appears, for there are many other intervening variables that may influence the fact that a child takes up employment or not.

In most developing countries, where educational provision is neither commensurate with the demand, nor related to the indigenous occupational structures and subsequently to the employment market, more and more children turn to labor because of its quick returns. Moreover, the high costs of education even where education is presumably free, militate against higher enrollment figures. Also, the deteriorating economic situation and increasing rates of unemployment paradoxically lead to an increase in child labor due to the fact that families become dependent on their children's income, and child labor means cheap labor without the complexities and legalities that adult labor is prone to.

To draw a parallel with the northern countries, child labor existed in Europe until when in recent decades, the sentimentalization of childhood led to a more protective and paternalistic attitude towards children. The shift in perceptions of the value of education in relation to employment, international legislation on labor, decreasing fertility and affluence has also led to a decline in child labor. Child labor was considered to be a good thing as a kind of training ground for children and a form of socialization apart from the economic necessity as children were also viewed as sources of income for the family as much as they are at present in developing countries.

Children were also normally inducted into the family craft and even sent to other craftsmen as apprentices. There were also the self-employed little chimney sweeps and the street vendors who did not have either the protection of the families or the formal stamp of apprenticeship. One only has to read Victorian literature particularly Charles Dickens' portrayal of child abuse to have a glimpse into the more ugly side of child labor. Not only was the transition from labor-intensive rural economies to urban, capital-intensive industrial economies responsible for gradually decreasing the phenomenon of child labor but the creation of welfare states, the birth of social security and general improvement in the standard of life of the majority made families less dependent on child labor. These developments went hand in hand with a general shift in attitudes towards children's welfare and the

concept of "rights" emerged as a corollary to this, finally crystallizing into the UN Convention on the rights of the child, even though specific laws regulating child labor had long preceded this convention.

Education also began to be seen as a means of socio-economic mobility linked to more employment opportunities, as more and more skilled labor was demanded. Prior to this, however, many people had also begun to write about child abuse from the moral and ethical point of view ... for e.g. Lord Shaftsbury in England had written to defend the cause of those little chimney boys. Child labor has by no means been eradicated from the northern countries, but the more mild forms of children's work like "baby-sitting", newspaper deliveries, and others done to earn extra pocket money or in other cases out of economic necessity within poorer families. However, this is done within the supervision and protection of the families as well as the fact that it is part-time thus enabling children to attend school. It is also noteworthy that as even the best welfare systems in the world are beginning to collapse, there may be a danger that child labor will begin to increase in the western countries, too.

As far as Yemen is concerned, the issue of child labor cannot be treated in the same way as it is in other countries, because one has to look at the individual socio-economic realities. The transition from childhood to adolescence and adulthood in Yemen is probably more rapid than in other countries and children shoulder responsibilities quite early on, as is the case in most developing countries. The middle class is quickly disappearing being pushed lower down the socio-economic scale. In other words, working children have begun to emerge from the ranks of the previously middle-class backgrounds, thus increasing the total number of working children.

Also, to look at child labor in its more positive aspects, it can have a positive impact on children's self-esteem provided it is looked at with affection and within the protective family environment. We are talking about something called the dignity of labor and these children are to be respected not to be scorned in comparison to a lot of adult idlers. Creating a sense of responsibility in children from an early age is a good thing for their character-building, because here we are not talking about affluent upper and middle class children who would have most of their needs met. We are talking about difficult circumstances surrounding the lives of the majority of children in developing countries, and the fact that they will have to inherit a difficult world in which they are expected to survive in future. They need all the survival skills plus exposure to the outer world there to prepare them to take up this difficult role. Moreover, many families in Yemen are dependent on their children's earnings in order to survive, especially in female-headed households. Some children work in order to study part-time. This list is by means exhaustive. To simply eradicate child labor categorically without it being part of a comprehensive rehabilitative program, may have the effect of driving it underground thus making it more dangerous as has happened in many countries.

The ILO has put child labor as top priority on its agenda, and historically, many laws have been passed either to regulate or combat child labor, especially the more dangerous forms of child labor. However, to eliminate child labor as ILO intends seems to be a long shot from where we are standing today on the shifting sands of the developing world, to say the least. At the regional level many workshops and meetings have been held to discuss the phenomenon of working children in the Arab world. It seems that the issue of child labor can only be tackled in a holistic way in order to yield the expected results in the long run. However, there could be more short-term measures taken in order to improve the situation. Of course in the long run, a more equitable distribution of income is required plus a comprehensive poverty alleviation program at the national levels, since one of the major causes of child labor is poverty.

The structural adjustment packages being implemented in developing countries should also take into account the situation of the poor who are usually hit the hardest when subsidies are removed from basic food stuffs within a situation already overcast by high rates of inflation and unemployment. Even if it is claimed that the economic situation will improve in the long run, a kind of economic safety net for the poorest must be devised and priority should be given to more job creation and generation of income.

The old fashioned form of social security ... meaning limited handouts to a limited number of people will not in any way tackle the problem of poverty. More community-based economic activities are needed



within a comprehensive program of self-help small enterprises and credit schemes, etc. The productive families project in Yemen as it stands only produces mountains of unsaleable clothes. More effort should be made to diversify, devise quality control and standards in order to export and organize large scale cottage industries that could be a good source of national income as well generate employment and income for poor families.

Vocational training should also be improved and it could absorb a lot of potential school drop-outs. The educational system needs to be improved and made more relevant to the needs of the modern age. Unfortunately education and health the two most important public services are the first to suffer cutbacks in times of economic crisis everywhere. The least we can do is to ascertain that working children are getting education at least upto the basic level. Improved occupational training could also produce more skilled workers in many areas in which there is a lack in this country. Education will not only improve opportunities in later life, but illiteracy has always been the enemy number one of development and progress. In Mexico, the old experienced craftsmen have been attached to craft-training centers for adolescents who learn the crafts from experienced people as well as creating a sense of communality. There are other programs elsewhere in Latin America like the "Sheltered workshop" industry which is a workshop for children producing very high quality hand-crafted items. The children go to school, get properly trained plus receive many facilities like free medical services and food in addition to their salaries. A lot of peer interaction takes place where older children instruct younger ones. This is one of the most successful rehabilitative centers for working children.

Legislation is another important aspect of child work because we have to think in terms of protection of working children not only from hazardous occupations but to regulate their labor in terms of remuneration, hours of work, vacation, schooling health, etc. We have to ascertain that working children are not being exploited and abused, and it is worth considering upgrading the labor inspectorate dept. in the ministry of labour and making on-site inspections. A system of penalties for violations should also be devised. In some countries in Latin America, private labor contractors for children have emerged in the form of proper businesses whilst at the same time behaving like rehabilitation centers for children. They handle all the legal aspects of employment for the children acting as a kind of informal business agent and trade union at the same time. They take up cases for children where employers violate the contracts, and ascertain that children are able to continue their education. At the same time, the children are offered many services and facilities, like counseling recreational activities, etc. including informal education as part of the rehabilitative program.

There are many physical hazards to children working in certain environments because children in their developmental stages are more susceptible to a number of diseases that may stunt their growth. There are toxic substances in farming for e.g. pesticides, etc. inhalents in factories or garages and so on and so forth. Moreover, some jobs are dangerous for children per se and adults can more easily avoid occupational hazards than children. Children have many developmental needs, physical, emotional, social and cognitive. Therefore if occupational hazards happen to threaten a child's normal development in any of these areas, measures are needed to protect the children.

Advocacy is another important aspect in creating public awareness on the dynamics of child labor, the pros and cons. Education of families is very important at least in alerting them to the more dangerous forms and parents should also be involved in any rehabilitation programs. The children themselves have to be informed about occupational hazards, and this could even in future be included in the general school curriculum.

Cooperation between the govt. and NGOs is essential because NGOs can be an important outlet for

preventative and rehabilitative programs, advocacy work, undertake informal education and be providers of direct services. The government role is in drawing up a strategy for tackling the issue and not only modifying laws but creating mechanisms for implementation and enforcement. Thus the two complement each other rather than exclude one another.

The phenomenon of working children in Yemen needs to be examined more closely as programs cannot be built on wild guesses or visual observations for there is always more to what meets the eye, as the saying goes. A baseline data base on working children needs to be established on prevalence rate, determinants, family backgrounds, impact, etc., and the information will finally be communicated to relevant sectors who must then

call upon all the actors to the stage who will have different roles in tackling the problem. A workshop was recently held in Sana'a to discuss the issue of working children, and one of the major recommendations were on the lines of undertaking a survey on working children. The findings of a survey could then become the basis for drawing up a national strategy which will need to include many components, like modifying laws, vocational training, income generation projects, etc.

This strategy could also be presented to international agencies who could be called upon to assist Yemen in setting up different programs. However, it would be well to remember that national self-reliance is desirable as far as possible, within the changing global situation where policies and priorities are changing fast as budgets are shrinking and phasing out of assistance is the predominant trend. In this connection, donors and govt. must work out programs which will have more cumulative effects for sustainable development.

Finally, I would like to state that Yemen is one of the countries which has not only signed but ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Being signatory makes it mandatory upon the country to comply with the articles within reason and taking into consideration national realities. However, there has been a lot of misunderstanding on the issue of this Convention with comments from different sides of the fence.

The fact is that the government is called upon to report to the Watchdog Committee in Geneva two years after signing the Convention, and the Committee in Geneva will in turn present their findings after discussion with individual countries to the UN General Assembly. It is noteworthy that many countries have neither signed nor ratified the Convention. The fact that the Republic of Yemen is one of the countries that has done so indicates the initial goodwill and intention. Nonetheless, a lot of homework needs to be done in order to work towards the fulfillment of the articles of the Convention.

Also, what it implies is that the government which has signed must prove to the Committee in its report that they have done their best for children within their means, and in most cases means are limited in developing countries. Beyond this, the govt. has the right to request outside assistance to supplement what they have done themselves. That is why it is important to define the problem, draw up viable strategies, and present well-thought out programs to get outside assistance. Of course the UN Convention is not something that should be implemented with a policeman's whipping rod, for that would be self-defeating. It is simply a document like any other international agreement, that is in the way of general guidelines made explicit on child welfare.

Every country has the freedom to adapt the Convention to their special national needs. Many articles of the Convention, however, as for e.g. equal opportunities for education for females and males can be found in the true teachings of Islam, and there is no contradiction because Islam in urging people to seek knowledge does not exclude females, but makes it incumbent upon males and females alike.

In the early days of Islam, female infanticide had been eliminated from Islamic societies due to the emphasis placed on female children, and the Holy Prophet had declared that he who brings up two girls well has assurance of heaven just to rid our societies of the bias against females who have the right to education as males. If we look at Islam, we will find that so many injunctions make child welfare imperative upon us if we are people of true faith. We have only to read the Holy Quran to note just how many verses reiterate again and again this concept of child welfare... the orphan, the destitute, etc. It is indeed our duty to take care of our children especially the more vulnerable categories like the handicapped, the working child, and children in difficult circumstances in general, and females can be considered to fall under this vulnerable category. By all standards and definitions children should have the first priority in any national development plans.

By: Samira Ali Bin Daair, Sanaa.


**AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-1-96 (Official)**
**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The World Bank Agrees to Finance an Anti-Poverty Project in Yemen
- 2) The Financial Committee in Parliament Prepares to Meet with the Government to Discusses Comments on the Budget (Beginning on Saturday 27-1-96)
- 3) Warning by Syria that There Will be a Deficit in Water Resources Facing the Arabs in the Magnitude of 30 Billion Cubic Meters by the Year 2000.

**Article Summary:**
**The New Coalition?**

Abdullah Al-Khamisy, wonders how columnists are asked by the coalition government to publicize the new reform program, the question arises: "Where is this coalition." "All we see is an alliance working against the citizen and the standard of living." The economy, he states, is still deteriorating, the Riyal is still falling and the people are still crying! When the coalition government was first formed, it told to us that failures or successes shall be jointly shared by the partners in the coalition. Does this promise still hold? What we have forming now is a new coalition of hunger, distress and poverty being felt by all people at the grassroots level, to whom party membership doesn't have any significance anymore. This grassroots class has become a majority that could forget about party membership in the next national (parliamentary) elections.

**DEVELOPMENT: Sana'a (Bi-weekly) 23-1-96 (The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry)**
**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Exchange Rate Shall Be Free to Float After January 1996
- 2) British Gas Starts to Drill its First Oil Well
- 3) 430,000 Barrels Per Day Is Yemen's Oil Production by the End of 1996.

**Article Summary:**
**Proposed Investments in Aden Duty Free Port Reaches Us \$ 916 Million**

230 prospective investors have conveyed their interest to invest in projects that could cost \$916 million in the Free Zone of Aden. These investors are Yemeni as well as foreign establishments who have presented various projects in the industrial, trading, warehousing, tourism, services and housing sectors. On the other hand the Yemeni government is expected to sign - at the end of January - the final



# Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

agreement for the construction of the infrastructure of the duty-free port, the cost of which has now risen to over US \$500 million.

A conference on the subject will be held in Aden in February, sponsored by the General Authority for Duty Free Zone and Aden University. Discussions will address the Free Port as well as its economic and social effects and future promotional plans.

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Weekly) 24-1-96 (Independent)**
**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar Reaffirms that the Islah Party Is Committed to the Reform Program
- 2) After Being Released: An Order Is Issued for the Arrest of Dar Ba Kather Publishing House Director and Five Others
- 3) An Imam of a Mosque Is Assaulted by Extremists
- 4) Housing Director in Hadhramaut Is Dismissed after Violations of the Law.

**Article Summary:**
**US \$500 Million WB/IMF**
**and Other Donor's Aid to Yemen In 1996**

The Meeting of Donors in The Hague ended on Tuesday, 23rd January. The donors agreed to grant Yemen half a billion US dollars for support of the second phase of the reform program. US \$25 million of this aid will be provided to finance those projects that create labor-intensive jobs. Other aid will come in the form of providing food supplies. Efforts will also be exerted towards improving the social security and social welfare systems, as well as to reduce the foreign debt burden of the Republic of Yemen. It appears that the Reforms Program may disprove allegations by many that the program only adds to the difficulties of the economy and the suffering of the people.

**AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) (Nasserite Unionist Party)**
**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Near-total Agreement by all the Parliamentary Blocs to Reject the State's General Budget Proposal for 1996.
- 2) A Peoples General Congress Leader in Ibb Killed

- 3) Protest March in Mareb Over Rising Prices. The Government Rescinds Diesel Price Increase.
- 4) Pessimistic Forecasts over the Yaffa'a Crisis.

**Article Summary:**
**New Details on the Fall of Hunaish**

The paper was informed by reliable sources in the Naval Forces and the military garrison that had guarded the island of Greater Hunaish that the reluctance and/or inability of the Ministry of Defense and the High Command of the Naval Forces to reinforce the garrison was the reason behind the fall of the island. After the Eritrean warning, the garrison had requested reinforcements, ammunition and supplies, but only 75 troops were sent with light arms. The force could only command two fronts whereas the rest of the island remained unattended which facilitated the landing of the Eritreans. The Vice Commander of the garrison had sent urgent messages on the 13th, 14th and 15th of November requesting help from the Naval Forces Command and advising of the imminent Eritrean attack. No reinforcements arrived.

The garrison was forced to destroy its secret signal code equipment when the efforts to defend the island were overcome, in order to prevent the Eritreans from finding out the signal code. The Deputy Commander is now under arrest at the Political Security Office's Prison. Several officers have also been arrested by the PSO under charge of neglect in performance of duty. But these officers deny the charges and insist that it was the senior commanders in the Ministry of Defense and the Navy Command who were to blame for not sending appropriate reinforcements. They also point out that 7 of the reinforcements that were sent had gone astray (because they could not navigate correctly) at sea. After three days of lack of direction in covering the two-hour distance, the re-inforcements, including the commander of the garrison, reached the Ras Issa Port, on the Red Sea.

**AL-THAWRY: Sana'a (Weekly) 25-1-96 (Yemeni Socialist Party)**
**Main Headlines:**

- 1) CIA Confidential Annual Report Points to Secret

Formations of Hizbullah and Terrorist Training Camps in Yemen.

- 2) Government Military Forces Attack a Hugarria Village (called Al-Hadharem) by Order of the Prime Minister in order to Occupy a Women's Development Center.
- 3) 4 Killed and 7 Wounded in Al-Mahara Incident.

**Article Summary:**
**1) ALTHAWRY Learnt**

In a weekly corner under the above title, the paper reported that a German firm Hanza-Luftbild will carry out the border markings between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The firm stands a good chance to get the contract because its agent in Yemen is the Al-Ahmar Group of Companies (owned by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar and his sons).

**2) Expected Summit Between Saleh & Afewerque**

Recent press reports stated that a summit between the Yemeni and Eritrean Presidents is expected during the Ramadhan fasting month in Cairo. The summit proposal was arranged by Franco-Egyptian mediation efforts, and has been agreed to by both Sana'a and Asmara. The summit is expected to lead to a Memo of Understanding which would set the steps, guidelines and timetable for solving the crisis that resulted from the Eritrean occupation of Greater Hunaish Island.

**26 SEPTEMBER 1996: Sana'a (Weekly) 25-1-96 (Mouthpiece of the Military)**
**Main Headlines:**

- 1) \$700 Million for Yemen after The Hague Meeting
- 2) The Council of Ministers' Regular Meeting:
  - Discusses the President's Letter to Revise the Reform Program
  - Reviews Results of The Hague Meeting
  - Discusses Methods for Assessing Performance of Government Bodies and Staff.
- 3) The Cabinet Decisions Set the Minimum Government Employee (Gross) Wage at YR 6100 (less than US \$50) a Month.

**Article Summary:**
**1) New Water and Sewerage Networks**

At a cost of DM 90 million, the water and sewerage systems of Aden, Taiz and al-Mukalla will soon undergo rehabilitation.

**2) Al-Wahdawi Hunaish Reports Are Untrue**

A Military spokesman denied the reports in Al-Wahdawi newspaper (see above). The spokesman urged the paper to authenticate its information on the armed forces and avoid releasing information which downgrades the armed forces.

## Letters to the Editor

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**MISTAKES IN YOUR "COMMON SENSE"**

In the regular column of Yemen Times "Common Sense" of January 22nd, 1996, Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi wrote an article entitled "It is Ramadhan, Again!" In that article he wrote as if he was an orientalist. All over his article he stated Mohammed as if he were talking about one of his friends or about an ordinary man.

As Muslims, when we want to talk about our prophet, we must say/write Mohammed (Peace and prayer be upon him). It is shame to write just the name. Otherwise we will be classified, from an Islamic point of view, as niggards. This is one complaint. The other is that the writer gave his readers an impression that Islam does not go along with polygamy. He wrote "The polygamy that the people of Mecca practiced was to Mohammed (note: he just mentioned the name) illogical and not in keeping with the religious heritage of his people ..."

Because of the vagueness of this sentence, a foreigner may mistakenly understand that polygamy is not acceptable in Islam. However, the reference was to the different forms (of polygamy) that had been practiced in Mecca. That is what is not allowed in Islam. For instance, to marry two sisters at the same time.

Islam accepts polygamy, but regulates its practice.

By: **Yahya Ali Suleiman Oram, Al-Salakanah, Hodeidah**

**Response by Common Sense Editor:**

Thank you Yahya for your attentive interest to my column.

1- You are correct on the blessings and salutations clause that should be used upon the mention of the most important and the final Prophet Mohammed's name (Peace be upon him). Good writing style, in English, would require the minimal use of non-substantive material. What may be appropriate as a compromise would be to state it on the first mention of Mohammed's (P) name and to suffice with adding the abbreviated P in parenthesis as shown above after every other subsequent mention. That seems reasonable.

2- Apparently there was a slip of the pen. Polytheism should have been the word intended and not polygamy." Apologies for the misunderstanding.

Hassan Al-Haifi.

**They Are Welcome Back, But Do They Have a Place to Stay?**

I would like to refer to the editor's report from Abu Dhabi. Ref. Yemen Times, Volume VI, issue no. 4 dated January 22nd thru 28th 1996. I am referring to the article under the headline "They are coming" on page 1.

As matter of fact, the homeland is wide enough to take in all Yemeni citizens, including those who worked against the clock (to divide it).

Because of our belief in the national conciliation, we welcome back our brothers. But we ought to tell them before they return whether or not the authorities in Yemen have allocated (kept the allocation) for each one a villa or a house at the Libyan Housing Complex. Beyond that, they are most welcome. Do you think Mr. Saqqaf that you could ask the President or his vice president to answer this question. Just to assure them.

By: **Abubaker Taina Sana'a**

**As Usual You Are a Big Winner**

Just two weeks ago, Dr. Abubaker Al-Saqqaf Won a Case Against Sana'a University. My favorite newspaper, the Yemen Times showed us last week (several weeks ago) painful pictures of Dr. Al-Saqqaf which caused a shock for all readers.

My question is to all those who are concerned - nationally and abroad - with human rights.

Why is all this inhuman action always taken against this very kind man.

I am very surprised. I cannot understand these continuous attacks. Is it because he is a talented professor, or because he is a charismatic writer, or because he is striving hard to expose all sort of corruption or because he won the case?

I can candidly describe these scandals as a sort of repulsive and unscrupulous dirty things to

block his efforts. No doubt, they will fail in their malicious attempts and will end up with their dead illusions.

By: **Mohammed Ali Kolaise, Aden.**

**An Open Letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh**

This is the fifth month for the unlucky Arab teachers in Yemen who received no salaries, not even a dime or a Riyal. Some of our colleagues are starting to sell their precious furniture and other assets to feed/cure themselves and their families. Some are even selling their clothes, others are suffering from ailments for which they are unable to afford treatment. Some are led to mad houses, others are about to commit suicide because it is hard for them to see their children underfed. Some have been dismissed from their flats, because they have not paid the rent.

I am sorry to bring this to your attention, Mr. President, because I know you are very busy. But we are part of your work. Fifteen days or so ago, Arab teachers in all governorates received their salaries, but not in Sana'a.

Mr. President. Some officials may think that we are angels and can live without food, water and other basic needs. I am sorry, but we are human. Therefore, we appeal to you to intervene and bring an end to the irregularities which take place in the Ministry of Education. They have profound influ-

ence on our lives, and on your educational system. How can they expect us - under these depressing, exhausting and frustrating conditions to teach the children well.

In short, I feel anger. I am not going to remind them (the Ministry) of protocols or contracts simply because they are going to laugh at my way of thinking. Some officials believe that we have come here to beg, if not to steal.

**YOUR TRUE VALUE**

Yes, it was how you were born, as the image of God, as someone. Someone useful and liable to work and sacrifice himself for his fellow's sake. Sure you don't deny this fact as fake, 'cause God never made you to be a junk.

No, you're not good-for-nothing or else your loving ones wouldn't be bothering in raising you, so much caring, from the time of your childhood of innocence, to a fully grown up person, in every sense. An individual of overall maturity, growing out of the innocent child completely and set to take life's responsibility. This is the moment though, a trying time indeed, a time to finding out your kindest deed, your true personality hidden deep inside, your human nature, that reflection of God.

This is the freedom you may fully enjoy, your only freedom that no one can take away. A freedom of showing your true value to the society that desperately wants you, Not money-wise, for a value too priceless, but the stretch of your hand to the needy ones, your act of sympathy for the helpless, your contribution of genuine quality towards the achievement of humanity.

By: **Rashaa**

# Disturbing Clippings

President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave recently a donation of US\$ 3000 and YR 2,000,000 to Mr. Ali Al-Olufi, the publisher and chief editor of Al-Ray Al-Aam newspaper. Within the range of lowly Yemeni newspapers - government and private alike - this newspaper is regarded as the pits. It has frequently used blackmail and intimidation against businessmen and public figures. Nobody can understand why the President of the Republic would use government funds to support such low-quality newspaper and its journalist. One reason could be that this newspaper and its editor - as well as others - are among the mouthpieces the regime uses to attack opponents, without appearing in the picture directly. It is called bad politics and bad journalism.

The Prosecutor General's office has issued warrants for the arrest of Fouad Mohammed Ba-Matraf, Saleh Saeed Yameen, Khamees Mohammed Ba-Fateen, Abubakar Abdul-Qader Ba-Raji, Abdul-Aleem Abdul-Raheem Bin Ghowdel, and Awadh Salim Bin Gowbah - all associated with the Ba-Katheer Publishing House in Mukallah. They had been freed by the Mukallah Court, but the prosecutor still wants them, in direct insubordination to the court. The problem has to do with the sale of the publishing house, which had belonged to the Yemeni Socialist Party, to a private investor. The Ministry of Information says it is the heir to the YSP, and that the sale should not be allowed to consummate. It is called bad legal system.

**NOTE:**

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



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Interior Affairs	252701/7
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Marib Insurance Sanaa	206112/4
Aden:	255668
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Yemen General Sanaa:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance	01-272890-2
Taiz:	215012
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Aman Insurance Sanaa:	214093
Hodeidah:	03-240354

<b>SANAA :</b>	
<b>1. Embassies:</b>	
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Bulgaria	208469
China	275337/340
Cuba	217304/5
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	245792/265469
Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	268888
Germany	413184/77/80
Hungary	248147
India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	414385
Iran	243439/40/43
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Italy	265616/73409/78846
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<b>3. International Organizations</b>	
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Air India	272544
Air Tanzania Sana'a	275029
Aden	241534
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Al-Nasim Travel	270750
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Iraqi Airlines	219431/224/5/6
Japan Airlines	219431/224/5/6
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DHL / Mukalla	05354844
Life Express	205696
Skypack	77310
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Mukalla	7921888(mobile)
American Express	272435/6

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Taj Sheba	272372/3
Plaza Suites	209074/209903/205483
Hadda Hotel	215212/4/5
<b>Aden (02)</b>	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
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Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
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# معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر AL-FAROUK INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES & COMPUTER

## Contest No. 58 مسابقة رقم ٥٨

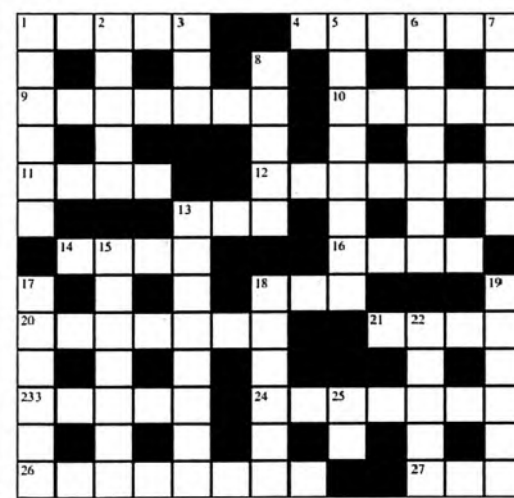
Prepared by: **Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer**  
إعداد: **معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر**

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م ب رقم (٣٦٣٧) ، صنعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاقي - صنعاء ، تليفون ٢٠٩٧٢١ (٩٧١-١) ، فاكس ٢١٨٢٣١

Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farouq Institute by

Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.  
يرجى قطع المسابقة وتعبئة البيانات المطلوبة ثم تسليمها إلى المسجل بمعهد الفاروق في موعد أقصاه يوم الخميس.

سيعلن اسم الفائز في العدد القادم من "يمن تايمز".

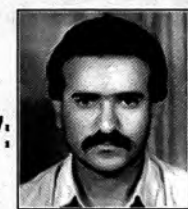


- |                                       |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Across                                | 1. Character from 4 & 9 ACROSS.             | Down                                   | 1. Vessel for boiling water.           |
| 4 & 9 ACROSS.                         | Book about Christopher Robin's best friend. | 2. Requires.                           | 3. In the past.                        |
| 9. See 4 ACROSS.                      |   | 5. Extra money charged.                | 6. Moving the head to say yes.         |
| 10. This 24-hour period.              |   | 7. Sad donkey in 4 & 9 ACROSS.         | 8. Print from a camera.                |
| 11. final.                            |   | 13. Get back.                          | 15. Special wood for a Christmas fire. |
| 12. Small breed of dog.               |   | 17. Policeman's hat.                   | 18. Entice.                            |
| 13. Son of 1 Across.                  |   | 19. fluffy character in 4 & 9 ACROSS.  | 22. Unit of gas used at home.          |
| 14. Rubber part of a wheel.           |   | 25. Hooting character in 4 & 9 ACROSS. |  |
| 16. Herb that is wise?                |   |  |  |
| 18. Small child.                      |   |  |  |
| 19. make bigger.                      |   |  |  |
| 21. Sicilian volcano.                 |   |  |  |
| 23. AA - author of 4. & 9 ACROSS.     |   |  |  |
| 24. Saying with a moral message.      |   |  |  |
| 26. Bouncy character in 4 & 9 ACROSS. |   |  |  |
| 27. Boundary.                         |   |  |  |

Correct answers for contest No. (57)



WINNER OF CONTEST NO 57:  
**Ali Abdu Abdullah**



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**When the Regime Pushes Decent Citizens to Become Outlaws**

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,

The regime in Sanaa is pushing decent citizens to become outlaws. The reason is that the regime cannot any more tolerate even peaceful efforts by individuals and institutions which express a different opinion. Let me give the Yemen Times (YT) and the Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA). I think that both organizations which work towards a civil society based on law and order. They are part of many institutions which work to make Yemen 'a good world citizen'. In that effort, they have both worked in an independent way, promoting transparency in government, accountability among officials, political pluralism, respect for human rights, etc. We came under enormous pressure because of that. Neither the YT nor the HWA has any military activities or arms. They work peacefully within the law. Yet, both have been subjected to much violence by state troops. Last week, over 400 soldiers and officers occupied Hadharem, a village in Taiz. They demand that the villagers feed them and pay them money for qat and incidentals. The people refused to oblige. They were attacked and several individuals were injured.

Continues on page 11

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