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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Yemen's Patience Pays Off:

### France Succeeds in Bringing Yemen and Eritrea to the Negotiation Table

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, is preparing for his Paris trip. He is travelling later this week to co-sign the Agreement of Principles which will govern the resolution of the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute regarding the Hunaish Archipelago. "This is a feather in the cap of French diplomacy," he said pointing to the four-months of continued effort by the French in bridging the gap between the Yemeni and Eritrean positions.

The Agreement calls for the establishment of an arbitration tribunal of three judges which will determine the ownership of the Archipelago. Both Yemen and Eritrea claim legal ownership to the

eleven islands (only four are large enough for normal habitation). Yemen controls the largest island on the Archipelago, Zuqar, while Eritrea invaded and occupied the second largest island, Greater Hunaish, on December 16th, 1995.

According to a French Foreign Ministry statement, both Egypt and Ethiopia, France's partners in the mediation effort, will also be invited to co-sign.

Following this agreement, the two sides will sit down to discuss additional agreements which will specify the scope and task of the arbitration tribunal as well as procedural issues.

Yemen and Eritrea had come close to open war over the islands. Eritrean efforts to man and control the flow of international traffic along the strategic southern exit of the Red Sea had brought it in trouble with many shipping lines and countries. Only last week, the Eritreans held up an oil ship which had worked for Canadian Occidental operating in Yemen. The ship's captain, Douglas Hunter, who was on his way from Hodeidah to the open seas of the Indian Ocean (on his way to South Africa) was held up for two hours.

While the agreement is a major achievement, it is not by any means the end of the road.

### Parliamentary Delegation Confirms Security Officers Raped Mukalla Women

The report of the parliamentary delegation which did a field investigation of the rape incidence of two women in Mukalla three weeks ago, confirms the rape event. The report, which is ready for presentation to parliament, states that the security officers did arrest the two women from the marketplace in Mukalla without a legal base, took them in for 'interrogation', and ended up raping one of them, and badly molesting the other.

"The officers, using their badges and the power of the law, were able to do whatever they wanted with the women," stated Ms. Mona Ba-Shraheel, member of parliament and one of the delegates.

The Center for Legal Assistance, an NGO which undertakes voluntary legal services for victimized citizens, said it was sending a team of 4 lawyers (Mr. Badr Ba-Sunaid, Mr. Muneer Geradah, Ms. Angham Hashim and Ms. Raqiyah Humaidan) to Mukalla. "The state is fiercely engaged in a cover-up in order to protect the officers. In fact, the state has already ordered the relocation of the main culprit to Sanaa," said one of the lawyers.

Given the lawlessness that reigns today in Yemen, many army/security officers and government officials are using the power of their position to obtain personal benefits and objectives.

Dr. Helmut Schafer, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (and member of parliament), was immensely pleased with his visit to Yemen. "I have come back with a better understanding of the expectations and problems of your country," he said in a meeting with the Yemen Times in Bonn. But the Minister, as did many other German officials and legislators, insisted that the system in Sanaa needs to shape up, for its good. "There are many issues on which your politicians have to make good on their promises," Yemen Times was told over and over.

Commenting on the current parliament, Dr. Rita Syssmuth, Speaker of the Bundestag, thought that two female deputies in a house of 301 members was not an adequate representation of women. "It represents less than one percent," she said. She encourages the political parties to nominate female candidates for the April 1997 elections. "A target of 10%, or some 30 members, seems plausible."

Joachim Horster, Otto Schilly, Christoph Zopel and other members of parliament thought that the opportunity must also be given to educated Yemenis to make it to

the House. "The parliament represents the modern face of Yemen. There is no point in filling it up with the old mentality," said Joachim Horster. "If Yemen proceeds in its modernization and transformation, it will receive the backing of the world. If it falters, and its politicians fall back to old ways, it will be abandoned by the world community" warned Schilly. "Freedom of the press, human rights, etc. are critical. We will watch how things unfold and how the next elections are managed," said Zopel. "The government promised the water and sewerage authorities in Aden, Ibb and other cities will be given full control over their revenues, which are all shipped to Sanaa, at the moment. Unless this is done, Germany will discontinue financing these projects," said Dr. Gerhard Adamek.

More on Germany on pages 8, 9.

## "We Support Yemen, but..."



With the Speaker of the Bundestag

### One More Time, Airport Hassle

The Yemen Times Chief Editor, Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, returned from Germany on April 28th, on board of the Lufthansa flight which landed around 10:00 p.m. The officers at the airport, for a dozen time now, routinely exposed him to unnecessary hassle. The luggage of Mr. Al-Saqqaf, was thoroughly checked. It was then re-checked. Then another officer came and asked, "What illegal stuff did you bring from Germany?" They were looking for 'anti-regime' papers.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### A New Concept in Sovereignty, New International Relations

Since the end of the Second World War, the revolutionary freedom movements which led to the liberation of many countries of the Third World, have sanctified the concept of sovereignty. The former colonial powers of Europe were made to constantly watch over their shoulders in their relations with the developing countries, as they were often accused of intervention in the internal affairs of the newly independent countries.

What in essence came out of this experience is that the local power centers got a free hand to do whatever they wanted with their people and the country's resources. In hindsight, one can say that in many cases, the former colonial powers were much more merciful on the local populations, and cared more for them than did the national rulers.

One can also say that the experience of the post-war independence movement has not produced good results. This does not mean I am calling for a return of the former colonial powers, although many people worldwide, including the people of Aden, would not probably mind that, at all. But what I am saying is that a certain degree of joint worldwide responsibility is badly needed in managing the affairs of a world which is becoming smaller and closely interlinked.

It is not such a bad idea if the world intervenes in the internal affairs of a nation if that were to reduce the suffering of the people - locally or internationally, or if it were to spare the world more agony or instability.

Let me use two examples or recent world intervention to help the chances of the better candidate (or the less of two evils) in upcoming elections. The USA, Europe, and the world have visibly intervened to influence the elections in Israel and the Russian Federation. The world is favoring Perez to Netanyahu, and Yeltsin to Zhirinovskiy.

The rationale is clear. Perez is better for peace in the Middle East than Netanyahu. Yeltsin is better for world peace than Zhirinovskiy.

The world has every right to support the more pro-peace and pro-democracy candidate. This, however, should not be taken as a pretext to intervene at whim worldwide. It is only when there is a real difference between potential rulers.

Let me take this logic one step further.

The world also has the right to intervene to topple bad rulers. The gun-boat diplomacy of the past needs to be refined and put in a clear and transparent format. The world as a whole should not shy away from intervening to save situations from deteriorating. We should not let isolationists and old-fashion legalists frighten us.

For example, if the world had acted earlier to bring down Ziad Barre in his last years of rule, before things got so much out of hand, the Somali people and the world would have been spared the present mess.

At this time, we should be on the look-out for current bad rulers who will inevitably bring suffering to their people, and possible face the world with yet another disaster. I have a list of rulers who the world should work to bring down, before things get out of hand. Rulers like Charles Taylor of Liberia or Mobutu of Zaire deserve our serious consideration to work on them.

I know many ultra-nationalists and those with privilege in the current system will cry "foul". Let them.

*The Publisher*  


### German Delegation Arrives in Sanaa

A German delegation headed by Otto Schilly and Dr. Christoph Zopel, SPD Members of the Bundestag, arrives in Sanaa on May 11th, on a one-week official visit. The delegation also includes businessmen as well as the regional representative of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

### Ma'awiya Suffers In Lieu of His Journalist Brother

Today, May 6th, marks the passage of one full month since the imprisonment of Ma'awiya Saeed Salim in Al-Mansoorah Prison in Aden. Ma'awiya is in prison because he had slapped a government official. The real reason for his penalization is, however, the antagonism between his brother, the famous journalist, Issam Saeed Salim, and the Governor of Aden, Mr. Taha Ghanim.

The Prosecutor of Al-Seerah Region in Aden, in charge of the case, has openly stated the Governor is the person who wants this kid in prison to get even with his journalist brother.

The case is being handled directly by the governor, as the prosecutor's office is side-stepped in the case.

### Establishment of Yemeni Committee to Protect Journalists and Writers

Hisham Ba-Shraheel, Editor of Al-Ayyam newspaper, told the Yemen Times that he is working on an idea to establish a committee to protect journalists and writers. "We will come to the defence of journalists who are penalized because of their profession. We will raise the matter with the authorities, public opinion, and the courts," he explained. He also said that the current journalists' syndicate is unable to protect journalists and promote their interests because of political considerations.

The editor of Al-Ayyam, who is the originator of the idea which has received much support among the independent journalists, concluded by stating that a meeting will be called during current May to announce the establishment of the committee. Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf, a prominent writer, who supports the idea, said that the committee will assist the journalists syndicate, which has faltered in the past, in achieving its goals. Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi, a columnist with the Yemen Times, stated that the integrity and reputation of the people promoting the idea has already given it much appeal. "They will be able to make a difference," he said.

### Tetra Pak: Environment-Conscious

Tetra Pak celebrated on the 24th of April, the tenth anniversary of the establishment of its Yemen branch. The occasion was marked by a seminar and a celebration attended by Mr. Harry Salomah, President of Tetra Pak Central Asia, Middle East and Africa. In an address entitled "Tetra Pak Today", Mr. Salomah emphasized the company's full awareness of the environmental issues.

Mr. Arne Mattsson, Managing Director of Tetra Pak Yemen, also said that the company will continue its training effort. He also said they will provide scholarships for training abroad. The events were attended by senior government officials, businessmen, environment and consumption groups, and others.

### Is Mansoor Rajih Finally Coming Out?

The country's most famous political prisoner, termed as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International, Pen International, and many other international organizations, has just completed his fifteenth year in prison. Word is that he is going to come before the next anniversary of the unification day - May 22nd.

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, told the Yemen Times that Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament, who is charged with the case, informed him that Mr. Rajih could come out any moment.

Mansoor is in prison because he is charged with murder. He was found guilty by the courts. Unfortunately, the court system of the 1980s in what was the Yemen Arab Republic was capable of passing sentences on all kinds of anti-regime politicians. Mr. Rajih was, after all, an opponent of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and a leading member of the NDF.

### (PROSPECTIVE) ACTORS UNITE

Since the disintegration of the Sana'a Amateur Musical Society in 1994, the expatriate community in Yemen had been without any means to express their theatrical talents. Until in November, 1995, when the Sana'a Playreading Group was formed.

The group offers an opportunity to people who are interested in the theater to express their (hidden) talents by reading a short play together. Members of the Group come from a variety of nationalities and age groups, but they all have one thing in common: love for the theater!

The Playreading Group meets once a month (usually on the third Tuesday) in the Sheraton Hotel. Depending on members' schedules, participation can be anything from 4 to 12 participants. Each time, a play is chosen to accommodate the composition of the group. The play is introduced, characters assigned, each "reader" prepares his or her role, and finally the play is read. Whoever has no part (or doesn't

feel like reading) listens to the others "act" out their part.

So far, plays by a variety of British and American playwrights have been read: Fay Ehlert, Tad Mosel, Susan Glaspell, Craig Lucas, Christopher Durang and Renee Taylor & Joseph Bologna. Gatherings of the Playreading Group are very informal. There are no prerequisites for participation, except perhaps knowledge of the English language! And although some participants have previous stage exposure, others have joined the group without any experience at all. The most important thing for every participants is to enjoy themselves!

There is no membership fee for being part of the Sana'a Playreading Group. Whoever participates at a reading just pays a small fee for coffee, tea, water and pastries.

The Sana'a Playreading Group welcomes new participants. The next meetings will be on May 14th (not May 21st as previously announced) and June 18th. Call 264 248 for more information.

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Jarallah Omar:

# “The YSP has not yet decided whether to participate in the coming parliamentary elections or not !”

Jarallah Omar, a member of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), is one of the key political figures of the country. As a man untainted by corruption or bloodshed, he is bound to play a critical role in helping shape the future of Yemen.

Recently, Jarallah was rudely attacked by the official media in Sanaa for his views. He had called for a serious national reconciliation among the various power groups, and asked the rulers to put the national interest above their narrow needs.

Yemen Times interviewed him in his home in Sanaa last week. Excerpts.

**Q: You returned to Yemen in January 1996 thus ending a 20-month voluntary exile in Cairo. How are you adjusting?**

**A:** That was not a big problem. I have always been in touch with the homeland, and followed closely its ups and downs. So, I more or less knew what to expect.

At the personal level, my wife and children had remained in Yemen though-out my self-exile. So I merely joined them. I want to mention a few friends who had provided me with moral and financial support in this process. That was very helpful.

In general, I can say my adjustment was quick and easy.

**Q: How would you assess the YSP conditions today?**

**A:** The YSP faces numerous difficulties in its day-to-day operations as a party, and it still suffers from the aftermath of the war. It still has not been allowed to regain its offices and property which have been confiscated by the state after the war. The YSP leadership also faces difficulties in regaining working contact with the organs of the party at the people's level.

However, I can say that the party is gradually regaining its strength and activities. The YSP has proven it is a party that has a real presence in the Yemeni scene because it represents the interests of social, political, cultural and economic forces in Yemen which cannot be side-stepped.

**Q: But how do you see the future of this party?**

**A:** The future of the YSP, as that of any other political party, is determined by its relations with the people and how much it reflects and defends their views, interests, and feelings. I have no doubt that the YSP will have an important presence in the political map of Yemen, irrespective of the people who manage it. After all, the YSP, as I said earlier, represents an important segment of the Yemeni population.

It is important to note that the YSP was one of two parties that created the unity of Yemen and democracy. The YSP got more than 25% of the votes in the April 1993 parliamentary elections. It is a party which has a strong and visible following in the northern and southern governorates.

Let me add here that the YSP has now added to its lessons and experience. It has become a totally civilian party which shuns violence and calls for a peaceful competition and interaction among the political forces of the country.

Finally, I want to say that the backbone beliefs of the party today are based on market-based economics, a pluralist political system, freedom of the press, respect for human rights and minority rights, and a gradualist approach to change and reform.

In short, it is a modern party which has a clear vision of the future based on a positive interaction with the world. It is a party that deeply believes in peaceful cooperation within Yemen, and with the outside world. Towards that end, the party has and continues to build links of cooperation with other forces in Yemen, and abroad.

As a result, I feel that the future belong to the YSP and those parties and individuals that think along those and similar lines.

**Q: I remember in 1987, you called on the YSP which ruled the then-PDORY (South Yemen) to adopt political pluralism. And in 1993, following the elections, you called on your party to join the opposition, and both times you were subjected much criticism. So, do I take it you are still com-**

**mitted to the YSP, even though you have had such major differences with your colleagues in the party?**

**A:** Yes, I am still committed to my party. It is not a person like me to become a member of a party when it is in power and strong, and to leave it when it is weak and outside the power structure. In any case, I am a YSP member primarily because it is a party that has specific views and visions, with which I agree and support.

The YSP is also a school from which many patriots graduated. It is a party that embarked on national struggle for liberty and change. Today, it continues its struggle for freedom, justice and development. By rubbing shoulders with my colleagues in the party, I learned to look at things from a national and world view point. Because of my association with the YSP, I have grown immensely.

Regarding the ideas I had put to my colleagues in the party, and the criticism to which I was exposed, it shows that this party had always had some room for exchange and dialogue. It is a party whose members can present views that are so different from the reigning current.

I feel the day will come when such divergent views and debates in the YSP will be the norm rather than the exception.

**Q: Has the YSP decided to participate in the next parliamentary elections scheduled for April 1997, and does it have a plan for the elections?**

**A:** At the outset, I will say that we are interested in participating in the next parliamentary elections, but whether we will be able to do so is another matter. We cannot function as a party unless our offices and branches are restored, we cannot operate unless our properties and resources are given back, and we cannot compete on an equal footing unless our members feel free to do so and they are not penalized and persecuted. There are other requirements as well, to ensure an honest competition.

In reply, I can say that the YSP has not yet decided whether it will participate or not!

It is imperative that we have clear level-playing, if the present rulers want the opposition to participate in the elections. Otherwise, one or two parties will be the lone players.

We do not insist on ideal conditions. Yemen is still on the very beginning of our democratization process. But there are some basic requirements such as the use of the official media, public funds, and the government/army/security infrastructure.

**Q: Let us move the conditions of the country, as a whole. How do you see economic development and political stability evolving?**

**A:** Of course, everybody sees that our economic development is at a standstill, or even regressing. The physical infrastructure like roads, electric stations, water and sewerage networks, harbors and airports, etc. - most of which were built in the 1970s and early 1980s - are being eroded and eaten away because of lack of maintenance.

The most scary part of all of this, however, is the failure in our educational system. Today, Yemen has the highest rate of illiteracy in the Arab World. More than 40% of the school-age children do not go to school, and they grow to become illiterate.

Add to that a population explosion. Our population grows by more than 3.7% per annum. In other words, a child is born in less than every minute. During the last hour that we have been together, Yemen has witnessed the birth of over seventy new children. This is not sustainable. What future awaits these children.

Remember also that Yemen, in a world comparison, is the country with the fastest depletion rate of its underground water reservoirs. Remember also that Yemen has been destroying its natural habitat, the environment, etc.

How did this happen? Who is responsible? At the political level, you can see the increasing level of lawlessness and chaos prevailing in the country. This is a recipe for disaster. It is a source of confusion and violence.

In my opinion, the remedy for all of this is more transparency and accountability. Unfortunately, the opposite is happening. The regime is becoming less and less tolerant of criticism. You can see this in the way they lash out against the independent press, journalists and writers.

We need to shore up our democratization process by creating a more responsible environment. The politicians have to give their conspiracy theory mentality and to trust the people of Yemen, especially the intellectuals.

We also need to trust our friends worldwide and to benefit from their advice.

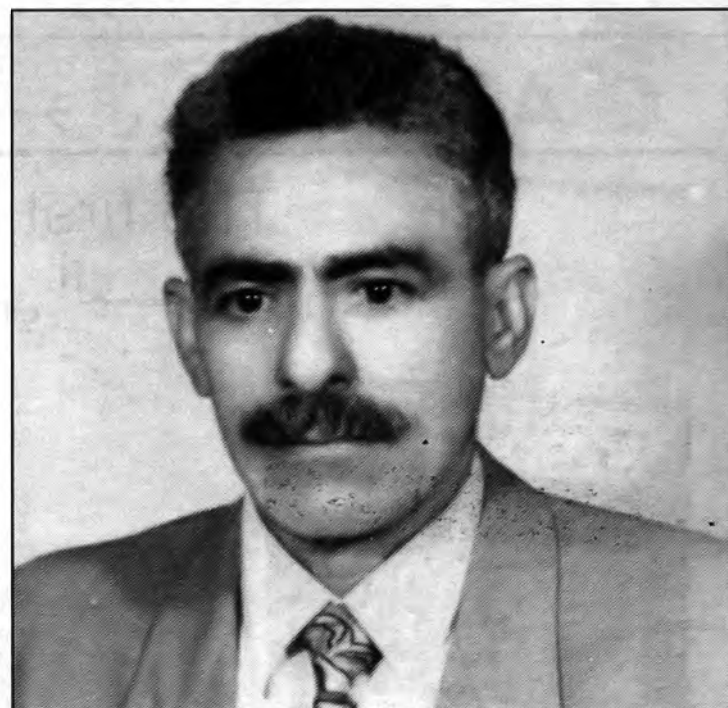
**Q: You spoke of Yemen's friends worldwide. Yemen's international image has been tarnished because of the regression in our democratization process. How can the foreign friends help?**

**A:** I expect of the donor countries, in particular the democratic ones, to make their assistance to Yemen conditional on progress on the political front. Economic development should go hand in hand with democratization, respect for human rights, press freedom and other liberties.

But, the real effort must come from the Yemenis themselves. In the final analysis, Yemen cannot live in isolation of the world trend towards more democracy and openness.

**Q: You have recently come under fire from the government media. You have also been criticized by the Yemeni opposition in exile. What is that all about?**

**A:** I really don't know how to explain that. I have my views on a number of issues, and I don't expect everybody to share the same views. In fact, it



would have been normal if the ruling politicians expressed their different views. But what they have done is to engage in lots of insults and personal attacks. The editor of the Yemen Times has been a recurrent target for the rulers' slurs and insults. It shows they are not serious about freedom of the press and tolerance of divergent views.


I don't feel I have to engage in such personal attacks. We are together in this and we have to learn to listen to one another, even if we don't agree with, or even don't like what others are saying. Dialogue is a basic quality for democratic and civilized behavior.

**Q: In your statements to the press, you have often repeated the need for equality of citizens. What exactly do you mean?**

**A:** This one point that the ruling politicians have been upset with. I think citizens should be equal in the way the state treats them, and in the way it looks at them. This is a cornerstone and objective of the the YSP philosophy. The present conditions are such that citizens are treated differently, and the factors for differentiation are the citizens' tribal background, region they come from, their skin color, sex, etc.

Continues on page 12

**A new sound in the Golden Peacock.**



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## YEMEN & ITS VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL DISASTER

By: Dr. Abdulatif Al-Maneefi,  
Civil Engineering Department,  
Sana'a University.

The seeming indifference of people to the environment tends to magnify the effects of natural disasters. This might explain the catastrophic effects that are disproportionate to the magnitude of the event. In Yemen, with a land area of 500,000 sq km and a population of 16 million, vulnerability to natural hazards is increased by the man-made environment, particularly its pattern of habitation. Exposed to a wide range of natural hazards, Yemen ranks among the top 25 disaster-prone countries. Floods are the most frequent and earthquakes are the most devastating. Both are potential reasons for landslide and rockfall though these usually occur as an effect of erosion and long term weathering of rocks.

Due to the strike-slip faults which cross the fault systems parallel and perpendicular to the Red Sea, Yemen experiences small and medium earthquakes in the mainland and large earthquakes offshore. Historical survey (200-1900) indicates that an earthquake occurs every 15 years while recent data (1900-1993) reveal that small to medium earthquakes occur every four years. These earthquakes destroyed hundreds of settlements, claimed thousands of lives, and incurred billions of dollars in economic loss. In 1982, an earthquake disaster pushed the Yemeni economy decades back and forced the cancellation of developmental plans.

Located in the southern part that has the highest rainfall in the Arabian Peninsula, water-related disaster frequently occur in Yemen. Heavy rainfall and flash floods claimed lives and destroyed towns, physical infrastructures and agricultural lands. Famine also resulted from catastrophic floods. The direct effect of heavy and long-lasting rainfall on badly constructed houses with earthen roofs is widely observed in the highlands. In this area, the location of villages on top and in the slopes of hilly places spares them from floods but exposes them to

the dangers of landslides and avalanches through soil erosion. The terracing and embankment systems, which worked perfectly to protect soil from erosion, have degraded due to the abandonment of agricultural practices resulting from mass migration to the rich gulf states during the last two decades.

The indirect effect consists of flash floods in plain regions and valleys where the habitation pattern almost linearly follows the waterways. This can be seen in the Tihama region and eastern Yemen which are characterized by low rainfall and whose residents depend chiefly on seasonal flood waters. If the distribution of flood is compared with the distribution of population in plain regions, it can be gleaned that almost all the population and cultivated lands are vulnerable to floods.

Since Yemen has not experienced any volcanic eruption in the recent past, the severity of the next one cannot be judged, especially in densely populated centers. Definitely, agricultural fields and small settlements are exposed in several areas. Also, the rapid expansion of the capital city into the north where the Quaternary volcanic field stretch makes it vulnerable to ashes and lava flow.

Despite all these, Yemen has at present no institutional arrangements to deal with natural disasters. As with most developing nations, it has been pre-occupied with its economic problems. Too often, economic problems obscure the threat from disasters. Experience has shown, however, that ignoring this threat imperils the people's lives and even the economic gains.

Yemen acknowledges its glaring need for a suitable disaster mitigation strategy that considers all those natural hazards. In view of the rapid social and economic development taking place, urgent action is required to protect people's lives and properties. Physical planning should consider all the natural hazards and introduce measures to minimize the community's vulnerability to natural hazard.

With its limited resources, Yemen looks to the international community for support and guidance in establishing and enhancing an integrated program to deal with natural disaster impacts.

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# On the Occasion of 3rd May : International Press Freedom Day, Taking Stock of the Lot of Journalists

On the occasion of 3rd May, a day for the right to inform and to be informed, Yemen Times is happy to publish two reports by reputed international organizations which present a summary of the conditions of journalists.

## The Seventh Annual Report on Freedom of the Press throughout the World by Reporters Sans Frontieres:

Every year, dozens of journalists are murdered, assaulted or imprisoned because of their work or their opinions. International Press Freedom Day, launched in 1991 by Reporters Sans Frontieres and officially recognized by the United Nations since 1994, is an opportunity to pay tribute to those who fight to defend the right to inform and to be informed. The 1995 Annual Report records infringements of press freedom worldwide (149 countries were dealt with).

### Did press freedom make any progress in 1995?

The situation has definitely improved in several countries, such as Ghana, Haiti, Mozambique, the Philippines, Togo, Ukraine and Yemen. But it has worsened considerably in Algeria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Gambia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Serbia and Rwanda. In other countries, little has changed: in Burma, China, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, the former Soviet Union, Tunisia and Vietnam, journalism is still a very dangerous profession.

It is true that 1995 was less deadly than the previous year (51 journalists killed, compared to 103 in 1994). But once again, it was the African continent that took the heaviest toll. Heading this sinister hit parade is Algeria, where 22 journalists were killed in 1995. A total of 56 journalists have died there since the witch-hunt of intellectuals began in May 1993 (including another seven in 1996). Moreover 386 journalists were imprisoned worldwide in 1995, and 102 were still in jail on 31 December, 1995.

### Have new forms of repression emerged?

The use of legislation to stifle press freedom and, to an even greater extent, the widespread growth of impunity are among the threats journalists have to face nowadays. On the pretext of "updating" press laws, several countries have introduced repressive legislation that enables them to restrict journalists' freedom with the blessing of the courts. This has happened in Romania, Congo, Zambia and Egypt. And the authorities have still not named the killers of the 51 journalists murdered in 1995, nor the hundreds murdered in previous years. Not a single suspect has been arrested so far.

Since the 1996 Report was published, listing 49 journalist killed in 1995, two new cases have come to light (one Indian journalist and one Bangladesh).

### The 1996 Annual Report

On 3 May 1996, International Press Freedom Day, Reporters Sans Frontieres published its seventh Annual Report on freedom of the press throughout the world.

### Did press freedom make any progress in 1995?

It is not possible to give a satisfactory answer to this legitimate question. There are no precise parameters against which to measure the ebb and flow of press freedom around the world.

It is true that the number of journalists killed in 1995 was less than half the previous year's toll (51 killed in 1995 against 103 in 1994) and is similar to previous years (61 journalists killed in 1992 and 59 in 1993). But the difference corresponds to the exceptional number of journalists killed in Rwanda during the April-July 1994 genocide: at least 49.

And although the number of deaths has dropped, their geographical distribution has remained remarkably stable.

This year again, three quarters of the journalists killed met their deaths on the African continent, mainly in Algeria. A total of 56 Algerian journalists have died in the struggle for the right to tell people what is going on in a country in the grip of civil war. Before being murdered and decapitated, Hamid Mahiout, a journalist with the French-language daily *Liberte*, suffered horrendous torture. His head was displayed on a stake near his home in the suburbs of Algiers. In an editorial published on 3 October and headlined "Peace, where are you?", Omar Quartilan, editor in chief of *El Khabar*, described the despair of Algerians in the face of the hatred and violence rocking the country. Later that day, he was shot five times in the head outside the newspaper offices.

The number of journalists jailed because of their profession or their opinions varies between 100 and 150, most of them in Asia (19 prisoners in China, seven in Burma, five in Vietnam), followed by Africa (15 in Ethiopia, five in Nigeria, four in Cote D'Ivoire) and the Arab World (eight in Syria, two in Algeria, two in Tunisia). Freedom of information is still non-existent in China. The authorities increasingly the use of draconian laws on state secrets to silence dissidents, and journalists in particular. Only a very few still take the risk of trying to provide fair and objective news coverage: 19 have already sacrificed their personal freedom to this principle.

During 1995, at least 386 journalists were imprisoned worldwide, including 127 in Europe (108 in Turkey alone), 114 in sub-Saharan Africa, 64 in North Africa and the Middle East, 53 in Asia and 28 in the Americas (including 18 in Peru).

Matters are not improving, because since 1 January 1996, ten journalists have been killed (seven of them in Algeria) and at least 104 were still in jail on 1st April 1996. Reporters Sans Frontieres calls for the immediate and unconditional release of 69 of them and a fair trial for them all.

### Are we witnessing new forms of repression?

Two phenomena are increasing to a worrying extent: the use of legislation and the courts to stifle free speech and the widespread growth of a tradition of impunity.

The independence of the judiciary is often called into question by governments with little respect for the principle of the separation of powers. In some countries, the more devotion to press freedom is officially proclaimed, the greater the pressure on the legislature and the judiciary. In several countries of Eastern Europe (Albania, Romania), Africa (Congo, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe) and the Arab World (Algeria, Egypt, Palestine), legal reforms aimed at making press freedom subordinate to respect for highly restrictive political norms were put forward in 1995. Since Yasser Arafat came to power in June 1994, no fewer than 40 journalists have been "legally" arrested by the Palestinian authority's intelligence service. The official attitude towards the private press and the public media during the first free elections, in January 1996, casts doubt on the likelihood that the situation will improve soon.

The subordination of justice to political interests helps to foster a tradition of impunity. It is not merely that various forms of "ordinary" harassment (administrative pressure, seizure of newspapers, arrests) do not result in the slightest legal penalty. What is even more serious is that the only consequence of killings and kidnappings of journalists is, at best, the opening of inquiries that never end in the culprits being identified. By deciding to shoot dead respected journalists such as Vladislav Listyev, in Russia, or Muhiddin Olimpur, in Tajikistan, the killers were making it clear to other members of the profession that nothing - not even their reputation - could protect them. The message rings out loud and clear when the killers and those who hire them get away scot-free. Despite the indignation of many people calling for them to be arrested and punished, the murderers of Listyev and Olimpur are still at liberty.

Several other incidents during 1995 serve as a reminder that even in Western democracies, the protection of press freedom requires constant vigilance and effort. On 27 March 1996, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in favor of British journalist William Goodwin, who had been sentenced in the United Kingdom for refusing to reveal his sources. In June, the Spanish daily *El Mundo* revealed a phone-tapping scandal: the Spanish secret service, the Higher Center for Defense Information, had been listening in on the professional and private phone calls of several of the newspaper's journalists.

Violence from right-wing extremists in France, Germany and Austria and nationalist movements in the Spanish Basque country and Corsica is another obstacle to the work of the press. On 6 April 1995, Raimund Friedl was killed by mistake in an attack aimed at Wolfgang Putscheller, a journalist with the Austrian daily *Der Standard* known for his investigative reporting and the victim of an assault by the police in 1994. On 9 June 1995, a secretary at the private German TV channel Pro 7 was injured when she opened a letter-bomb believed to have been sent by an extreme-right group. On 23 September, a camera-man with a Paris local TV channel was assaulted by National Front militants. On 26 January 1996, the daily *El Correo Espanol* printed a leaflet believed to come from the Basque separatist movement ETA and calling for an "armed intervention" against media managers. On 8 March, the Paris home of *Liberation* journalist who had been investigating Corsican independence movements was machine-gunned.

### What can RSF actually do?

The organization's International Secretariat, with a staff of about 20, coordinates a network of 125 local correspondents all over the world. Using information provided by them and by the investigation and assistance missions carried out in the most sensitive countries (about 50 every year), RSF can respond straight away to the most serious infringements of press freedom and alert public opinion. It writes protest letters (about 380 in 1995), issues press releases, organizes media campaigns and publishes books and magazines. Governments, which are forced to take account of international public opinion, take notice when RSF condemns violations of press freedom.

However, over the past five years, Reporters Sans Frontieres has found it has to intervene in new ways to order to keep up with the way threats to press freedom are developing. At first it restricted itself to condemning infringements. But from 1993-94, a substantial share of its available resources were devoted to providing emergency aid, especially in the former Yugoslavia, Algeria and East Africa. In 1994-95, the organization started legal proceedings in international courts against several journalists who incited ethnic hatred. Some of these cases have fallen through; others are still awaiting verdicts. In any event, the dissuasive effect of legal proceedings seems significant: on 18 March 1996, the National Communications Council in Burundi suspended six extremist newspapers against which Reporters Sans Frontieres had been calling for sanctions for more than a year.

"There is no freedom without press freedom": this phrase is now well known, but the worldwide struggle of those who work to safeguard this "barometer of public freedoms" all too often goes unrecognized. This report pays tribute to those journalists and other media employees who, day in

and day out, defend their right to inform and our right to be informed.

### Three changes in the 1996 edition

- More space is given to a regional approach to attacks on press freedom. As well as the general introduction, which paints an overall picture of the state of press freedom worldwide, five regional introductions covering sub-Saharan Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the former Soviet Union, and North Africa and the Middle East, underline the main regional trends.

- Appendices contain reference documents and information about Reporters Sans Frontieres. A list of journalists who were killed or jailed or who disappeared in 1995 is given as an appendix, along with the statutes of the organization and various particular details.

- The French edition is now available in book-stores. The English and Spanish editions are available from the organization's headquarters.

### 1996 Summary:

#### Journalist victims of repression

- 51 journalists killed in 1995 (plus ten since 1st January 1996)
- 45 journalists missing since 1988
- 386 journalists jailed during 1995
- 102 still in prison on 31st December 1995 (106 on 1st April 1996)

#### What Reporters Sans Frontieres did in 1995

- 380 protest letters and 25 press releases
- 50 investigation and assistance missions
- 1.5 million French francs in aid to journalists and the media
- 20 reports and books

For further information, please contact  
Reporters Sans Frontieres on (33) 1.44.83.84.84

## CPJ Names the Ten Worst "Enemies of the Press"

The leaders of China, Nigeria, and Turkey are among 10 world figures identified by the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists as "Enemies of the Press". All are responsible for brutal campaigns against journalists and press freedom, as documented by CPJ in its ongoing monitoring of press freedom violations worldwide. The Enemies of the Press list is released annually on May 3rd, World Press Freedom Day.

Heading the list for the second straight year is Abu Abdul Rahman Amin, the head of Algeria's rebel Armed Islamic Group, who claims responsibility for many of the 58 assassinations of journalists in Algeria since 1993.

"Each of these 10 men is actively committed to the eradication of the independent press," said William A. Orme, Jr., executive director of CPJ. "Scores of working journalists were killed, imprisoned, or driven into exile as a result of their direct or covert actions."

### The Enemies of the Press

1. **Abu Abdul Rahman Amin, leader of the Armed Islamic Group of Algeria.** His insurgent faction has claimed responsibility for many of the 58 assassinations of journalists in Algeria over the past three years. Rahman Amin has threatened all secular journalists with death. "Those who fight with the pen," he proclaimed, "shall die by the sword."

2. **China's leader, Deng Xiaoping.** China's nonagenarian strongman may no longer run his government on a daily basis, but his ruling philosophy - "socialism with Chinese characteristics" - continues to serve as a pretext for the complete suppression of independent reporting. When it takes over Hong Kong in June 1997, Deng's regime is expected to

muzzle one of the most vibrant and pluralistic news centers in all of Asia. As the man who ordered the June 1989 crackdown in Tiananmen Square, which included the imprisonment of China's leading journalists, Deng is directly responsible for restricting the press freedom rights of more than one-fifth of the world's population.

3. **Nigerian President Sani Abacha** persecutes independent journalists by ordering or encouraging editorial office bombings, seizures of periodicals and equipment, and the arbitrary detention of journalists, often without charges. One result is a steady stream into exile of the profession's best and brightest. For those who stay, the risks are great: in 1995 four journalists were sentenced by a secret military tribunal to 15 years in prison for reporting on dissident army officers accused of plotting the overthrow of the regime.

4. **Turkey's Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz** runs a government that at any given moment holds more journalists in jail than any other in the world. Yilmaz has done nothing to improve on his predecessor Tansu Ciller's dismal press freedom record. At the end of 1995, CPJ documented 51 cases of Turkish journalists who were then in jail simply for exercising their profession. Most were imprisoned for reporting that was allegedly sympathetic to the Kurdish cause. Despite international criticism, Yilmaz has so far chosen to retain and enforce the notorious Articles 7 and 8 of the Anti-Terror Law and Article 312 of the Penal Code, which effectively criminalize independent news reporting about separatist movements, army counter-insurgency tactics, Islamic fundamentalism, and other topics central to the country's political life.

5. **Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmonov.** President Rakhmonov has overseen the systematic elimination of independent Tajik news media. The paramilitary forces he commanded during the recent civil war were responsible for many of the 27 death-squad killings of journalists, are in hiding or in exile. The repressive Rakhmonov regime is wholly dependent on Russian military and economic aid.

6. **Indonesia's President Suharto.** President Suharto has orchestrated a two-year-long crackdown on the country's independent press. After banning three leading news-weeklies in June 1994, his regime brutally suppressed demonstrations by journalists and others against the closures. Last September, the leader of the only independent journalists union, Ahmad Taufik, and his colleague Eko Maryadi were sentenced to three years in prison for publishing an uncensored magazine and supposedly subjecting the government to "hostility, hatred, and contempt." At least 80 members of Taufik's union, the Alliance of Independent Journalists, have been fired from their jobs due to government pressure.

7. **Cuba's President Fidel Castro.** Cuba remains the only country in the Americas without any independent publications or broadcasters. Reporters not employed by state media are not allowed to own or operate a computer or a fax machine. Independent local journalists who attempt to send news dispatches to clients abroad face such retaliatory measures as internal travel bans, overnight detentions, the harassment of friends and relatives, seizures of equipment, and threats of prolonged imprisonment.

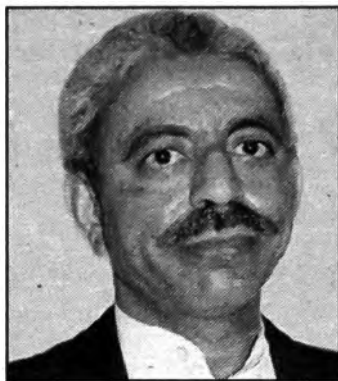
Continues on page 10



# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## THERE IS NO INSURANCE FOR COLD-BLOODED MURDER



"Did you see what Israel did in Lebanon?" said a middle-aged man who had just sat down in the company coffee shop waiting for a late order of breakfast.

"Look, Anwar, Israel was just being Israel, so we should never be surprised by what Israel is doing. The only real puzzling matter to me and to most of the Arabs, is what has happened to the Arabs in so little a time? They have become a people without emotion or sentiment. They have lost touch with their heritage. They have broken contact with time," said Munir, a Lebanese accountant who works with the accounting firm which audits the company accounts.

"Ishaq, how are you?" said Anwar to the Insurance Dept. Manager who has just completed the foursome sitting at the table.

"I can assure you, I am not hungry," responded Ishaq, and added: "How can anyone eat after seeing all those dead children in Lebanon? The special on the Israeli raids in Lebanon that went on for more than two weeks in one of the satellite stations really turned my stomach. Many innocent victims slaughtered, who would care the least about Israel or Hizbullah or Clinton winning the presidential elections in the United States or Perez winning the elections in Israel. The worst part about it is the feeling that nobody in the entire Arab World can say to the

Israeli: "Hey you guys knock it off, you can't really think Arab blood is that cheap?"

Anwar quickly commented: "You cannot say much for Arab blood nowadays. Although I must admit Hizbullah has proven that there is a lot of potential that lies dormant in every Arab person. I certainly believe now that Hizbullah was underestimated by a lot of people, including myself."

Munir wanted to add weight to Anwar's statement: "Anwar, Hizbullah is very well organized and certainly has now become an important institution with proven loyalty to Lebanon's national sovereignty. You can see the strong dedication to the cause they have decided to uphold."

"But why should Israel make so much fuss about Hizbullah?" said Ishaq, who never really cared much about current events, but wanted to be part of the discussion.

"Ishaq, nobody can blame you for not really knowing what is going on any where, let alone Lebanon. You are so immersed in trying to read all that fine print in the insurance policies you have to go through, that there is just not enough time for you to read newspapers. Besides you are afraid to find out that a catastrophe is on the way because of all the insurance claim forms you would have to fill out," said Anwar sarcastically.

Munir wanted Ishaq and the other people in the table to fully understand the real picture in Lebanon: "It is not just Hizbullah that Israel was after by her latest aggression in Lebanon. Hizbullah was an excuse only for Israel to make sure that Israel can hit Lebanon - all of Lebanon. Hizbullah is only hitting Israel in the positions it occupies in Lebanon and at the border settlements in Northern Israel, only when Israel hits Lebanese civilian villages or towns. The situation has been repeated so many times in Israel's bloody short history. Israel intimidates its neighbors gradually to force them to react to its aggressive behavior, then it claims that its neighbors are attacking its border settlements. All one has to do is brief through the memoirs and reports of the United Nations Forces Commanders in the area to see who are the real aggressors in the Levant."

Because Hizbullah has been making effective strikes against Israel, which found it difficult to beat Hizbullah or to get it to tone down the effectiveness of their strikes, there is nothing else that Israel could do but revert to usual terror tactics of killing as many Lebanese civilians as possible. Israel has mastered the art of terror in the air, on land and from the sea. Do you remember that in one Israeli terror campaign in the Lebanese 'Civil War', the

outbreak of which Israel had a major hand in encouraging, 600 innocent civilians in their night clothes were killed by Israel and her agents in Sabra and Shatilla, in the earlier part of the last decade. On the other hand, Israel wanted to make it clear that Lebanon will never be allowed to come back as a strong productive state that would belie the myth that an Arab country, even as small as Lebanon, can behave along civilized lines, which the Israelis are not comfortable with. Lebanon as such would become more attractive to the Arabs as a leader in any Middle East market association and more competitive to Israel, which has long range plans to take the role of the master in such a market as envisaged by the Henry Kissinger and Moshe Dayan think tank institutions in Washington and in Tel Aviv respectively.

Lebanon has its problems as a nation, but those problems are not going to get in the way of making sure that Lebanon is going to forego, its sovereignty over territory which Israel occupies without any justifiable reasons and without any legitimate backing, unless you want to regard American muscle diplomacy as having been elevated to international legitimacy. In that case, there is a big challenge to peace and stability, not just in the Middle East, but in the world at large as well.

As a last motive, for Israel and the US, the word was given to Syria: follow suit with the others and end your 'state of belligerency' with Israel. Moreover, the coziness with Iran must end. For some reason or another America can't do without having an enemy. After the Soviet threat has ended, America wants to keep itself busy by pursuing Iran. Israel is afraid of Iran and wants to drag the United States in an incomprehensible long range drawn out battle against a relatively well behaved nation like Iran, so far. It is just that Iran is really telling it straight to Israel and the US, which is more than what is expected of a lot of the states in the region which can not seem to come up with enough courage to speak for their own interests, let alone the interests of their brethren.

Maybe it is revenge; maybe it is hate or maybe because Iran insists on choosing her own directions, but the US just can't stand Iran and wants the entire world to follow the same illogical thinking. Anyway, it seems that Washington had hopes of giving Iran a lesson by getting Hizbullah clobbered by Israel and by telling Syria to end its coziness with Iran. Israel could not hit Hizbullah, so it pursued other tasks which lead to serving Israel's own strategic ends: namely hit Lebanon hard and keep it busy rebuilding itself, so that Israel can tend to her long range mercantile goals.

Ishaq wanted to show his surface

knowledge of the international current scene: "This New World Order is still surrounded with a lot of ambiguity. Things just happen here and there and everybody just says it is the New World Order. The New World Order has done nothing more than raise insurance costs in the area, since the region has been confined to a state of perpetual crisis."

Not since the miscalculated Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has this area seen any hope of lower insurance costs."

Abdulkarim, a recently employed mechanical engineer and the only one of the four who has not spoken, because he is still unacquainted with the people beside him except for Ishaq, had a chance to join the conversation: "Insurance, it seems that as far as you are concerned, the whole world revolves around insurance. It is a little bit more complicated than you think. But you are right about the ambiguity behind the New World Order: Increase in fundamentalist religious activity, the Gulf Wars (Iraq vs. Iran & Iraq vs. a basket of nations lead by the United States), Bosnia - Herzegovina, the Eritrean Occupation of Greater Huneish, Somalia's mess, the Eritrean occupation of parts of northern Djibouti territory, and the endless craziness in Afghanistan, China and Taiwan, Liberia, Rwanda etc."

Some of the issues were unavoidable in the wake of the absence of a bipolar balance of power which characterized the Cold War/Détente years, and the historical roots tied to the issues. But other issues are really inexplicable, from the point of view of logic and the confirmation of right vs. wrong, which should have been a characteristic of any meaningful new order for the world to pursue. In fact the wrong will generally be allowed to take favor with the sponsors of this New world Order.

Munir had another view: "What happened in Lebanon seems to be a clear reflection of the exaggerated use of brute force to promote political gains by the leaders that initiated the commands for the ungodly raids - Perez and Clinton. This is the frightening aspect of the New World Order: That the death of more than two hundred Lebanese civilians are going to mean more votes cast for either one of them is a clear indication of the unfavorable atmosphere that this Order will impose on the majority of human beings of the world. One must really wonder: How do the Americans view the rest of the world: a playground which can be directed by remote control to suit their own purposes and serve their own individual or group interest? While America and Israel have to concentrate all their high tech killing tools on helpless Lebanese, Syrian and of course

Palestinian civilians, it is obvious that the Arab leaders are succumbing to the New World Order, even though the Arab world has lost so much, thanks to this New World Order: All their accumulated oil money, all their rights as real sovereign states, all their military capabilities, and a lot of Arab lives."

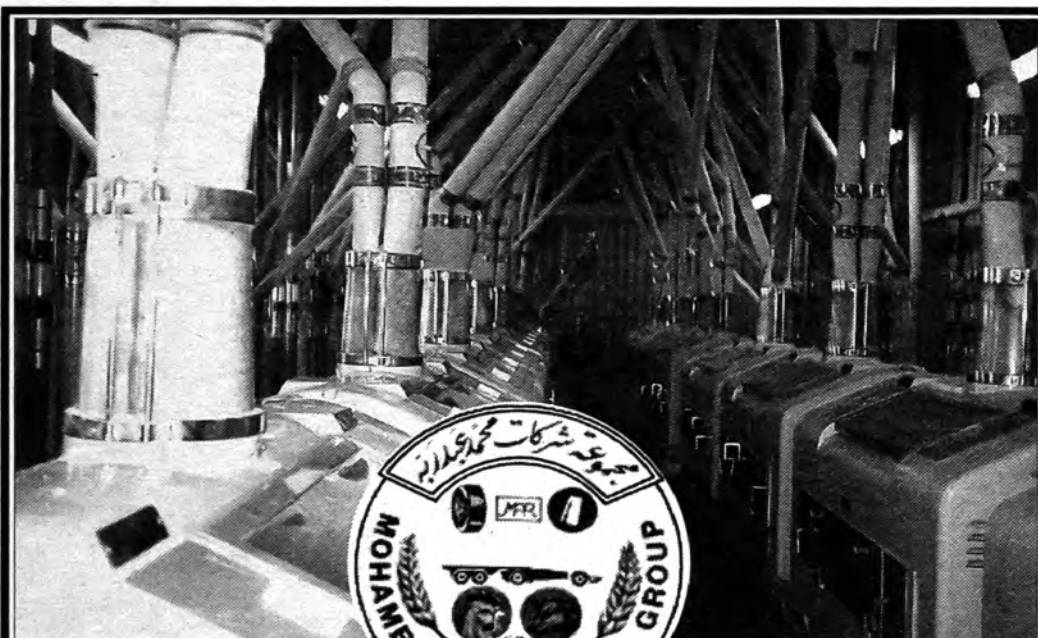
Ishaq commented as he stood up to get back to his office: Imagine that 200 lives just to get Perez and Clinton reelected. That is cold blooded murder on any books and all of you can rest assured that insurance cover for that will always be hard to obtain in this New World Order, or in any form of international order."

In issue No. 17 of the Yemen Times (21 April 1996) The first column was inadvertently subjected to some exclusions. Based on the request of many readers, the Yemen Times reprints the first column as it should have appeared in the Common Sense article Allah's Party vs. Israel (Part 1):

### Quote:

The Levantine area of the Middle East, which the Arabs, at least those who still strongly believe that the Arabs are a people with a deep rooted, civilized heritage that did have a taste of the Lord's blessings-call Al-Sham, is perhaps the most phenomenal international hot bed of the world now and in as much of the time that man has been walking this planet. As long as any of man's history has been recorded, perhaps no region of the world has seen so much hostility, so much bloodshed. The Levant is immersed in cultural and social development, beauty, variety, song, poetry and religion. Being at the crossroads of the known world for many millennia, the Levant was the valve that controlled the cultural flow of three continents between all the various civilizations that sprouted in the three continents. Its location, then, represented a deep source of the region's attachment to international conflict, petty warfare, massacres and an ongoing change of title between all the known powers that dominated the world, from time to time. The Levant that geographical expanse that comprises today: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and the not so autonomous little Post Office Box that Yassir Arafat and his comrades at the Palestine Liberation Organization have been given for reneging on their cause d'être, Palestine. So much blood has flowed in its valleys that some historians might regard the flow of blood to be more than the flow of water in the holiest of areas in the world to three religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Unquote



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# NASS: Networking for Your Information

NASS's success in Yemen is an indication of the technology requirement and market demand. The market has increased three-fold over the last 6 months, since the company was established in Sanaa. Since then, NASS has established a branch office in Aden, and is looking at additional outlets.

The dynamo and brain behind the NASS success is Mr. Sam Bihairy, the General Manager and co-owner. The gigantic Sam, a British national of Egyptian extract, is very easy to work with. His loud laugh has become a trade-mark around town. "But that is not what I want to be famous for. I want to be famous for the dependability of our products and services," he says.

Ismail Al-Ghabry and Anwar Al-Sayyadi of Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Bihairy. Excerpts.



**Q: The world of computer technology is overwhelming our civilization. Do poor/backward societies like ours have a chance to catch up?**

**A:** Indeed, computers have become an integral part of life in our present civilization. It is going to be even more so in the 21st century. I think the ability to use computers in one's work and life is going to be a critical one. In fact, one of the new definitions of an illiterate person is a person who is unable to use computers.

The world of computers is a changing one. That is both a problem and a blessing. It is a problem in that you have to keep up-dating yourself, your machine, and your software regularly. But for countries like Yemen, it is a blessing. You don't have to go through the whole process. Any individual or society can literally link up at its most modern edge.

Having said that, I think it is imperative to start teaching the young children about computers. Even if you don't have the resources to actually provide the machines and programs, at least start by imparting knowledge on this important tool.

**Q: Your company is specializing in net-working. Could you give us more detail about this?**

**A:** Networking is one of the most important aspects in the information technology. The reason behind it is the speed of the processing power of PCs and work stations on many computers. But the most smart ideas are not really in the processing power, but in how to move this power and distribute it through the network. So, our forte' is networking, and it is to keep the performance of this particular dimension of the technology - dispensation of and sharing of information go smoothly.

But what we doing here isn't only linking information technology and data together. It is also to shape the data in whatever form so as the receiver can use it directly and easily. For this purpose, we brought the latest technology from the West such as fiber optic systems which link all these computers together.

This technology is seen as a solution to the problem for the big industrial units, big complex systems, etc. It is able to distribute through the network from the base up to the desk. This is really the technology we are serving today in Yemen.

Technology serving has lots of names, but I am not going to bother with the details. The most important thing is to link Yemen with the latest world centers to make it benefit from the information that is available.

The coming of the Internet to Yemen will further augment this possibility. Linking Yemen with the sources of knowledge is a major thrust, as it will allow the country to move to the fast track.

**Q: You mentioned the Internet is coming to Yemen. Could you give us details?**

**A:** Yes, preparations are fully underway to create a server in Yemen. TeleYemen is entrusted with the job, under the supervision of the Ministry of Com-

munications. I believe in the next few weeks, you should hear good news on this front.

The Internet today is a most useful source of information. It is called in various fancy words like the Technology Highway, Cyberspace, etc. Most countries of the region are already connected. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia are examples.

But you must understand that the Internet is not for government or big organizations. It is for individuals who actually walk in the street, who actually like to understand and get information out of any place of the world. Internet brings the world closer by moving information fast and for a little cost.

Continues on page 15

Continued from page 3:

## Jarallah Omar's Interview...

A key factor in this equality is that all citizens enjoy the same opportunities in getting government jobs, services, projects, etc. Political thoughts and affiliations should not be a factor in the way the state treats the people.

At the same time, I have to stress that qualifications and capabilities must be an important factor in the level of participation in managing the affairs of government. Unfortunately, this is not the case in the present government, and it does not look likely that this policy will be adopted in the future.

**Q: The opposition parties are very weak and fragmented. How do you envisage breathing life into them?**

**A:** The reality of the whole spectrum of modern forces - not just the opposition - is a sad one. There are some clearly objective reasons for this state of affairs.

Observe, for example, the dissipation and weakness of the middle class. Observe the inability of the civil society associations to organize themselves efficiently.

But there are also some reasons which are related to the efforts exerted by the ruling political forces and the traditionalists and fundamentalists aligned with them. They are making life hard for the modernists in many ways. Remember what they are doing to the NGOs. Remember what they are doing to the syndicates. Remember what they are doing to the independent journalists and newspapers. Remember what they are doing to the lawyers.

I think what the modernists need is to coordinate their efforts in facing the traditionalists and fundamentalists. The idea of the 'Freedom Forum' is a good one and should be further pursued.

**Q: Where do we go from here?**

**A:** In spite of the major hurdles facing us, we have to live in hope. It is important that the forces of the past do not frustrate us to the extent of making us give up. If we do that, they have won, and our country will end up being a pariah in the community of nations. We should make sure, Yemen does not end up a pariah. We can do it.

If you look at the number of intellectuals and public personalities, you will see that there is reason for hope, and for a lot of hard work and ingenuity.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I do not want to flatter the Yemen Times or its chief editor Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. But the role they play in Yemen's transformation is crucial. Both deserve our appreciation, respect and applause. People like Professor Al-Saqqaf can easily leave the country and find an easy life abroad. The fact

## المؤسسة العامة للمياه والصرف الصحي

تهنيء الشعب اليمني

وقبادتنا السياسية بزعامة ابن اليمن البار الفريق علي عبدالله صالح  
وحكومتنا الرشيدة برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني

بمناسبة عيد الأضحى المبارك وعيد العمال

وكذلك قرب حلول ذكرى عيد الوحدة - ٢٢ مايو

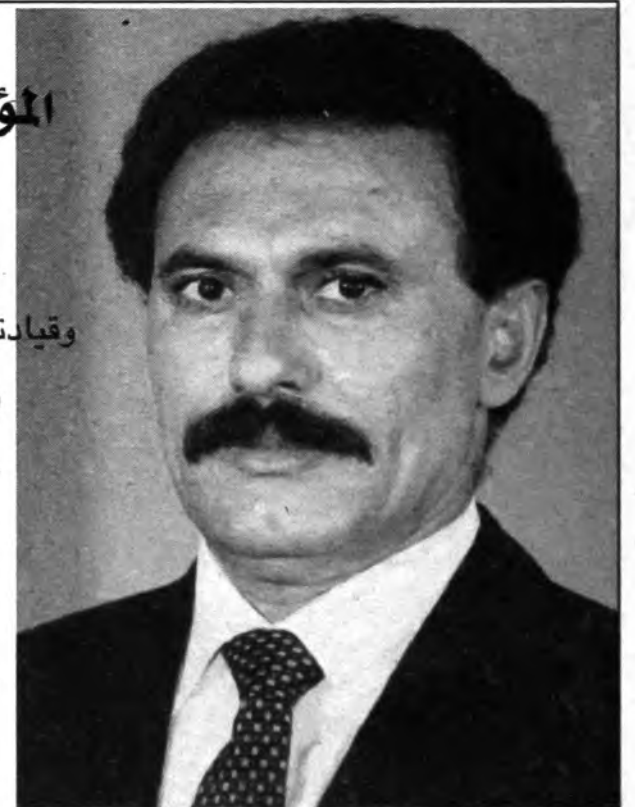
ونتعهد

بأن الذكرى القادمة لعيد الوحدة (٢٢ مايو ١٩٩٦)

لن تحل علينا إلا وقد أنجزنا المرحلة الأولى من مشروع مياه تعز

وسيتولى رئيس الجمهورية شخصياً فتح تدفق الماء للمواطنين

وكل عام والجميع بخير واليمن في تقدم وإزدهار





# Germany Embraces the World

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

## A High-Powered Visit Program

It started with an initiative from Dr. Helga von Strachwitz, German Ambassador to Yemen. She offered to arrange an invitation by the Foreign Ministry extending for two weeks. The purpose: to become closer friends and to better understand Germany. Mr. Christoff Antone, the Information Officer at the embassy, took care of the details.

While in Germany, the program was further strengthened and enlarged.

It is easy for a Yemeni to feel at home with Germans - both at the official and people's levels. After all, Yemenis enjoy a lot of good will and support.

As Otto Schilly - a leading SPD Member of Parliament and a person I have become accustomed to calling "Yemen's friend in the Bundestag" - describes it: Yemenis and Germans share the exclusive feeling and sense of having unified their respective countries at the same time - 1990. As a result, we also share some unique problems of integration."

During the visit, I met with the Honorable Dr. Rita Sussmuth, President (Speaker) of the Bundestag (Parliament); members of parliament Otto Schilly, Joachim Horster - CDU (Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee), Dr. Christoph Zopel - SPD, Bruno Kaiser, Managing Director of the Parliameptary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation; the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Helmut Schafer, and many other officials at the Foreign Ministry including Dr. Franz Eichinger and Wolfram Vetter; many officials at the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development including Dr. Gerhard Adamek and Helmut Farber; academicians in various universities, the DAAD, research and training centers; journalists in Deutsche Welle, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Deutschland, etc.; foundations like Friederich Ebert Stiftung, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; leading companies such as MAN Roland, BASF, etc. It was indeed a most pleasant and useful trip.



With Schilly



With Schafer

## Integrating the former GDR

When the German Democratic Republic (GDR or East Germany), collapsed in 1989, it left behind some 8,000 large state companies employing some 8.6 million people. In 1990, the Treuhandanstalt (Treuhand Trust) was created to administer this legacy. Its policies were clear:

1. To break down the large companies into smaller ones. Thus, the 8,000 state companies were broken down to 13,000 companies, and many more at a later stage.
2. To pass over ownership of these companies to the private sector. As a result many Germans and foreigners bought the companies.
3. To shift the emphasis from loss-making mining operations and heavy industries to new small and medium-sized companies (mittelstand), thus the number of companies almost doubled overnight.
4. To swiftly carry out the transformation, albeit causing a good deal of social disruption to those losing their jobs, rather than engage in a long, drawn-out process.

Treuhand, not only got rid of the GDR companies, but by the end of 1994, it got rid of itself. Its final report, Abschlussbericht, stated that trust had finished its mandate leaving behind only 65 companies whose job has not been finished. Four successor organizations (Bundesanstalt für Vereinigungsbedingte Sonderaufgaben, Treuhand-Liegenschaftsgesellschaft, Bodenverwertungs- und Verwaltungen GmbH, Beteiligungs-Management-Gesellschaft Berlin mbH) subsequently took over to tie up the loose ends with these outstanding companies. These four companies expect their life-span to continue for two more years, and they too, will be dissolved. In spite of criticism from labor unions, the restructuring process and integration of the former GDR, which has costed almost DM 300 billion, has gone very well. The productivity and income of East Germans stands today at 80% of their West Germans brethren. It will take another ten years before they reach parity.

## Contributing to World Harmony

Germany embraces the world. The country is vigorously working to improve world understanding and harmony. This is evident from many factors. Let me list some:

1. Learning the Languages of Others: Among the giant advanced countries (USA, Russia, Japan, UK, France) none can claim that the majority of their citizens have knowledge of another language. Germany can. Today, statistics show that more than half of the German population of 82 million can use another language. This is often English, but French, Russian and Spanish are also among the top foreign languages Germans use. Japanese is also making a serious in-road. In addition, a solid 18% speak a third language.

2. Economic Interaction: Last year (1995), Germans invested more than DM 50 billion abroad. Although most of its went to Europe, a good deal did go to South-east Asia and Latin America. Over the last five years, German investments abroad were nearly DM 190 billion. By the same token, international investors have poured in a lot of money into Germany. The level of interaction and integration with the world is unprecedented.



With the Speaker of the Bundestag and Yemen's Ambassador

3. A Harmonious Europe: Germany is one of the key countries pushing for a harmonious and integrated Europe. It sees getting closer as one of the guarantees to avoid difficulties in the future.

4. Foreign Aid: Germany is among the most generous donors of foreign aid. This is visible whether through bilateral aid to developing countries, or through international and multi-lateral organizations. For the period since 1990, Germany has provided nearly DM 220,000,000,000 to Third World countries (some DM 35 per annum) in the form of direct development aid, debt relief, and credit guarantees.

5. Sanctuary to the Oppressed: Germany has been among the leading Western countries to offer sanctuary to the oppressed and asylum seekers. The number of refugees has grown enormously over the last few years. By the same token, Germany has given generously in cases of disasters of whatever kind in many parts of the world.

6. Financing World Democratization: German foundations, whether at the federal or state levels, have been actively supporting former communist and third world countries which are engaged in the transformation and democratization processes.

As a result of this world role, Germany is expected to join the UN Security Council as a permanent member and become a leading nation of the next century.

## Berlin Prepares for its 21st Century Role

"One November day (1989), I accidentally got a small chip of the wall. As I was walking back home with it, a tourist saw it and bought it from me for DM 150," said Mrs. Waltraud Glashagen, a resident of former West Berlin. "The next day, I came back with my son and a big hammer to chip off pieces of the wall." Today, she sells off the pieces in front of the Brandenburg Gate.

So the Berlin Wall is down. It is almost totally gone. Only small parts of it are left. "I am told that the people of Manchester in the United Kingdom have erected a replica, and tourists are flocking to go to show them what it is like," said Walter Rohr, my Berlin guide. The Berliners, while interested in the past, are more interested in the future. They are preparing their city to resume its role as the capital of Germany, and one of the major centers of Europe. Walter and I counted in one afternoon 1012 towering cranes erected in various construction sites in the city. Indeed, Berlin has become one gigantic workshop.

But it is not just Berlin that is witnessing a re-birth. It is the totality of what was the former DDR (East Germany) that is being re-created. In city after another, one can see the reconstruction effort that is going on. The re-integration process of the German nation is in full swing.

In Dresden, the city of August the Strong, that big womanizer, the orientation is towards clean development. That is the mayor's catch word for upper class tourism. Indeed, the capital of Saxony has much to offer to the high-paying tourist. Back in Berlin, the Federal Government, foreign embassies, and many German, European and other companies are scrambling for space. Although we are looking at half a decade in advance, when Berlin will be re-instituted as the capital of Germany, there is already fierce competition for real estate. For the countries that had the far-sight to



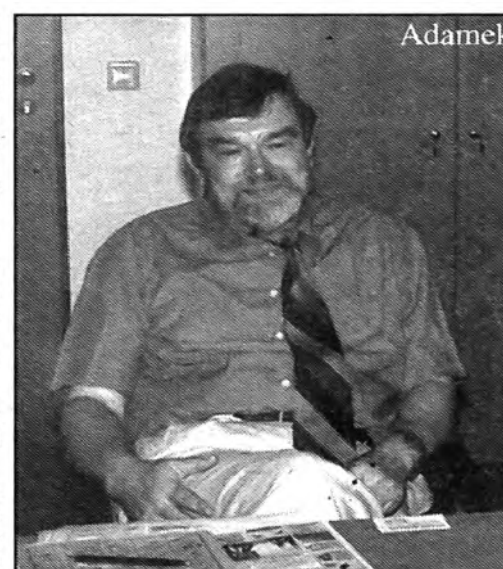
keep their real estates, like the USA, Japan, Italy, etc., the move will not be agonizing or costly. For others, especially in the Third World, catching up with Berlin will take much doing.

## Watchful Eye on Yemen's Coming Elections

Germany is among Yemen's best friends. German officials and legislators repeated many times during my visit that they want the Yemeni transformation and democratization experiment to succeed. "Yemen's democratization is the only moral force that makes us continue our interest and support" is a statement repeated over and over.

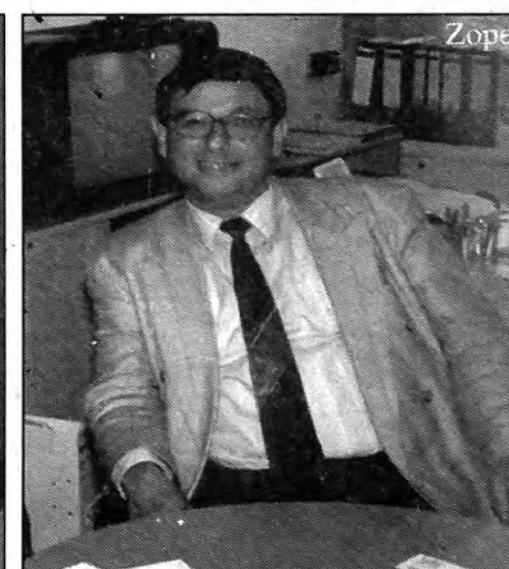
There is a growing feeling among German officials that things are not going well. There are too many violations against human rights, freedom of the press, political pluralism, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), etc. But they see these violations as temporary, and that they can and will be corrected. "The main test will be in the coming parliamentary elections. If there is a tendency to concentrate power among the ruling few and at the exclusion of others, then this will be bad for the country," said Joachim Horster.

He explained that the January visit of the Speaker of parliament, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar to Germany was successful and that it left a good impression. He also said that Yemen is one of the few countries that holds the promise of democratization. But it will all depend on the next elections.



Adamek

Dr. Helmut Schafer, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said that during his recent visit to Yemen, President Ali Abdullah Saleh asked Germany to help in the next elections. "We will provide some of the facilities that will help make the elections a success. But the key factor will depend on the Yemeni authorities," he indicated.



Zopel

Dr. Christoph Zopel, former Minister of Urban Development and Transport in North Rhine-Westphalia and Member of the Bundestag, said they are eager to support Yemen. Towards that end, he will arrive in Sanaa on May 11th. "We will meet with all groups. We are interested in meeting with people who contribute to the country's transformation," he said.

## Berlin Under Construction





# Ministry of Education Needs Changes from the Roots

It is well known that education is a basic ingredient for a country's development and progress. Without education, progress or development for any nation is impossible. It has never happened and will never happen at any time. In our country, the government and some patriots are doing well for contributing in building and starting up schools. The country also receives aid from friendly or brotherly countries. But these efforts alone can't do much for education in Yemen as our educational policy is going from bad to worst. Let me give some clear examples for this.

1) Almost all school principals in the republic have been considered as independent bosses and everyone has his/her own educational policy and do anything he/she likes. As there aren't any rules, laws, or policy measures to control them, under most circumstances, no real and consistent interest or care in education can develop. To conclude this point, let me ask this question. Why do many principals get stuck in the same schools for a long time? Some of them have been principals of the same schools for more than fifteen years!

2) As education is the first weapon against backwardness, the people who are working in this field, and at all levels, must be free from using this important profession for their personal interest or for others' personal interests. Schools must not be a place to recruit party members. Nowadays, many schools are already serving this purpose. Teachers, school administrators, and students who are not members of a ruling party, often lose many rights, privileges and opportunities. This problem is growing openly in many government schools. Why?

3) Why are there two different teachers' associations in Yemen. Within this profession, school principals and other officials are playing a dirty game against Yemeni teachers. Why? Just for personal gains.

4) Let us take as an example the new English language syllabus for first and second preparatory levels. The new texts have been done without plan.

a- Didn't they know the number of the students they have? A huge ministry like the Ministry of Education doesn't have statistics. That is absurd. Here is one more unbelievable fact - the Ministry distributes one text book for every three students. Demand exceeds supply, thus creating a black market for text books. These are routinely sold at the ministry's gate.  
b- When they prepared the syllabus, they put 50% of the course with listening exercise. Did they supply a copy of the cassettes? Did they ask themselves how many of the schools can supply the record machines to properly use these texts? Who is going to answer these questions?

5) The other crime in this field has happened in some schools was dividing the courses on religion and Arabic into two different subjects each. That meant increasing the time allocated for these subjects and decrease the time for science, maths, English, etc.  
Don't we need doctors, engineers, accountants, etc. What's the exact aim behind these changes? Did the old bureaucratic experts intend to waste the time of the new generation?

6) Promotion policy:  
a- Many school principals are using their own system of promotion. These differences in promotion made some schools too crowded.  
b- In some schools, teachers do not participate in this matter. They are surprised at the end of the year by finding the weak students promoted to the next class. Because of this, we can find more and more staff around the principal who are loyal to him/her, who are his/her relatives, or who belong to the same party.  
There are some of the many problems in this ministry. I hope a serious consideration for them is found in the reform program. Our educational system must be corrected from its existing ills, created by life-long bureaucrats and selfish people. Schools are a place for producing human brain for the next generation.  
Changing dishes won't make the food more tasty, unless you change the cook and the ingredients.

By: Mohammed Shatubi

# Lawyers Appeal Against State Intervention

The main core of independent lawyers issued an appeal to local, regional and international organizations to come to their assistance in their drive to elect the board of their syndicate. "Our efforts to make the state see light have all failed. The rulers have packed our meeting with their agents, people who are neither lawyers nor associated with the profession in any way," stated a circular issued by the lawyers, last week.

All members of professions and groups have the right to elect their representatives. Unfortunately, however, the state has been interfering in the exercise of this right. The students were unable to elect their representatives who will manage their union. The teachers have suffered from the same fate. The lawyers are also in the same predicament. The board of journalists' syndicate has not been able even to meet.

The politicians are worried about the rise of independent unions, associations, syndicates, and other organizations. Therefore, they have made it a policy to politicize these organizations and to work to control them. As a result, most of the unions, associations and syndicates have become pale copies of what they could have become in a vibrant democratizing society. The lawyers say they will resist the state's politicization effort.

Continues from Page 5:

# CPJ's List of 10 Enemies of the Press

## 8. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Ibn Saud.

King Fahd uses his enormous financial and diplomatic clout to silence dissenting voices not just in Riyadh but throughout the Arab World. The Saudi press, though privately owned, is one of the most restricted in the world. King Fahd must approve the hiring of editors; he also can (and does) dismiss them at will. *More disturbing still, the Saudi royal family has acquired the most important international Arab periodicals and broadcast outlets and uses its influence to suppress all criticism—indeed, all serious examination of its business interests and diplomatic entanglements.*

## 9. Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi.

President Moi has declared war on the independent press and widened its net to include foreign correspondents. Critical coverage of Moi has been decreed a criminal offense, while newspapers and printers have been arbitrarily closed for publishing opposing viewpoints. Journalists covering the trial of human rights activist Koigi wa Wamwere were physically attacked by pro-government thugs. *The government last year introduced a restrictive new press law, including government-mandated "codes of conduct" for journalists, only to withdraw the initiative in the face of fierce international condemnation.*

## 10. Slovakia's Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar.

In his latest assault on press freedom, the thin-skinned prime minister pushed through parliament an amendment to the Criminal Code that would imprison journalists and others found guilty of "spreading false information abroad." Since Meciar dismissed all but one of the 18 members of the state radio and television supervising councils in November 1994, the Slovakian broadcasters have become mouthpieces and apologists for the prime minister's increasingly autocratic rule. *This backslide into repression bodes ill not only for Slovakia but for all of post-communist Central Europe.*

The Committee to Protect Journalists documents and responds to press freedom abuses around the world. CPJ works to get detained journalist out of jail, directs international campaigns of protest against repressive governments, and provides practical safety information to reporters assigned to dangerous areas. CPJ is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization financed wholly by donations from individuals, private foundations, and news organizations.

More information about press freedom in more than 100 countries can be found in CPJ's annual report, *Attacks on the Press in 1995*, available on CPJ's new World Wide Web site, <http://www.cpj.org>.

**Yemen-America Language Institute**  
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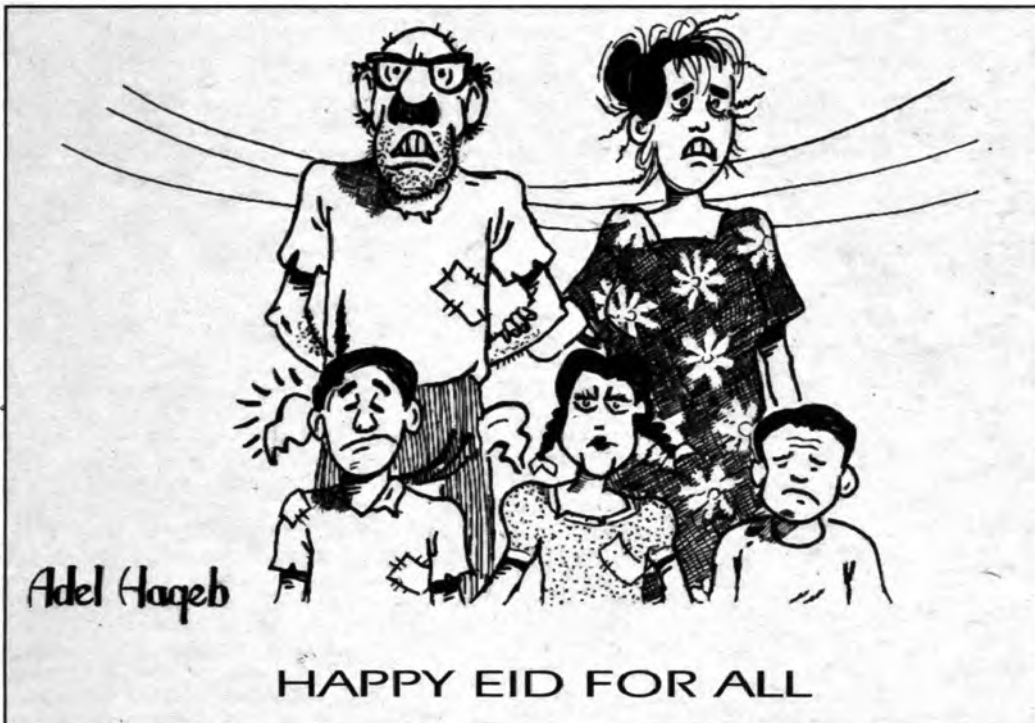
May 6th, 1996

## Indian Elections: No Surprises

Nearly half a billion people have gone to the polls over the last ten days in more than 500,000 booths in the huge nation of India. As would be expected in such a huge undertaking, there were quite a few problems. To start with, there was the violence that marked numerous booths and in various constituencies. Although no full details exist, it is expected up to 40 persons have been killed and numerous more injured.

There were other irregularities including direct interference leading to interruption in various polling stations. Finally, in spite of the Herculean efforts of the Election Commission, there still was the traditional fanfare accompanying the campaigning and election process. When all is said and done, however, the on-going Indian elections have been clean and relatively peaceful. After all, this is the world's largest democracy.

One thing is coming out clearly. The Indian elections do not hold any surprises. As predicted by observers, neither of the two big parties will come out victorious. The Congress Party of Narasimha Rao is anticipated to come out with a small edge, but not enough to spare the pains of a coalition government. The Bharatiya Janata Party, may have been unable to yet dislodge the Congress grip over power.



Adel Hageb

HAPPY EID FOR ALL

### ألف مبروك

باسمي خاصة  
وتياية عن اخواني أيتاء  
محلة الأشمور  
ناحية عمران  
نزف تهانياتنا إلى كل من:  
عرفات علي أحمد  
حميد الأشموري  
عصام حسين الأشموري  
علي صالح علي  
الأشموري  
محمد ناصر الأشموري  
بمناسبة زفافهم  
الميمون  
ألف مبروك

عن جميع أهل المحلة  
حميد أحمد الأشموري

### تعزية

يتقدم كل من

محمد علي هيثم طماح، محمد عمر صالح،  
صالح محمد حسين، علي عبدالله عزان،  
عبدالرحمن محسن عوض،  
جمال أحمد الشويلي  
بخالص التعزية والمواساة  
لسعادة السفير عبدالرب علي السلفي  
وذلك بوفاة والدته.  
تغمدها الله بواسع رحمته  
وألهم أهلها الصبر والسلوان  
وانا لله وانا إليه راجعون

### تهانينا الحارة

نزف أعطر التهاني وأجمل الأمانى للشباب  
عبدالجبار محمد قاسم الأصبحي

بمناسبة زفافه الميمون ، وأدام الله السرور .

المهنؤون:

عبدالمالك الأصبحي ، أمين شمسان الأصبحي ، إسكندر الأصبحي ،  
عبدالكريم سعيد الأصبحي ، د/عبدالعزيز السقاف ، سلطان الأصبحي ،

### ألف مبروك

نزف أعطر التهاني وأجمل الأمانى للشباب

محمد طه أبو زيد

بمناسبة الزفاف السعيد ، وأسعد الله أيام الزوجين

المهنؤون:

سند عبدالعزيز طرموم ، محمد عبده مريش ، معاذ عبدالغني قاسم ، مختار أمين  
الحميري، بلال عبدالرحمن شجاع، وكافة شباب مجمع سكن الدكاتره

### الشمعة الأولى



ونحن نعيش على أمل  
متجدد مع تجدد الحياة،  
فإن العمل يتمثل في  
إشراقات أطفالنا  
وابتساماتهم.  
واسماعيل حسن العمري من الأطفال الذين ترسم  
على شفاههم ابتسامة الوطن.  
أطفئ الشمعة الأولى وعقبال ألف شمعة يا  
إسماعيل

المهنؤون:

بابا وماما وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

### أهلاً وسهلاً بالمولود الجديد

ببالغ الفرح والسرور ، نهنيء الأستاذ

عبدالكريم سعيد الشرجبي

بمناسبة وصول مولوده الجديد الذي أسماه

«محمد»

جعله الله عوناً لأهله ووطنه وأمه ، وألف مبروك

المهنؤون:

عبدالواسع هائل سعيد ، د/عبدالعزيز السقاف ،  
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# QUEEN of the Desert

## The Palm Tree as Cultural Symbol of the Arabs

By: Rachel Hajar

"And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree: She cried [in her anguish] . . . But [a voice] cried to her from beneath the [palm tree]: 'Grieve not! for thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee; And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm tree: It will let fall fresh ripe dates upon thee'" (Qura'n: Sura XIX. Verses 23-25). As told in the Qura'n, when Mary gave birth to Jesus, she was in a remote place in Bethlehem-and was under a palm tree.

According to Christian tradition, on the Sunday before Passover, Jesus entered Jerusalem, where he was met by crowds who "took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13). Christians remember this triumphal event annually with the blessing and procession of palm leaves on Palm Sunday. This celebration marks the beginning of Holy Week, commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Palms are employed as decorations at services on this Sunday, and fragments of the leaves are distributed to congregants.

The Jews used palm leaves for the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. This fall festival marked the close of the harvest in Palestine. "And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees . . ." (Leviticus 23:40). Today, palm branches brought to the synagogue for blessing are waved about, as was done in the ancient Temple. The celebration also serves as a reminder of the Hebrews' nomadic existence.

The date palm has played a vital role in the life of Middle Eastern peoples. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam evolved in the same sandy soil of the Arabian Peninsula that nurtured the palm tree. The region's tribal peoples admired courage, endurance, and generosity, qualities that the date palm came to embody. Subsequently, members of each faith nursed and treasured the tree for its life-sustaining qualities. For each group, the tree became a symbol of life and virtue.

Today, the date palm still reigns over the desert, and it is commonly cultivated on farms and in private gardens. Wrote one Arab poet of this beguiling tree: "Be like a palm tree, above hatred. If somebody throws a stone to it, it will throw back sweet fruit to him."

### The Tree of Life

Throughout the history of religions and cultures, plants and trees have been viewed as sacred. The branches of palm, olive, and laurel trees were often associated with the gods and used as symbols of life and immortality. And, according to the Old Testament (Joel 1:12), the destruction of a palm tree is a metaphor for divine retribution.

The date palm has been prized from remotest antiquity. Historical references to me tree abound. For example, Eridu, the site of the oldest known human settlement (its ruins are located in southern Iraq), was characterized by palm groves as early as 4000 B.C. According to a legend similar to that of Moses' birth, Sargon of Akkad, who ruled Mesopotamia from 2334 to 2279 B.C., was said to have been placed in a reed basket at birth and sent floating down the Euphrates River, where he was rescued by a laborer in a palm garden. Palm trees and clusters of dates appear in the papyri of the ancient Egyptians. Even the Old Testament identifies some places by the abundance of palms in their locality. Jericho, for example, is mentioned as the "city of palms" (Deuteronomy 34:3).

In southern Mesopotamia, where it was a crime to cut down a palm tree, dates were valued as a source of food and of currency as well. Hammurabi's laws stipulated that if the owner of a date-palm orchard leased his farm for cultivation, he had the right to receive two-thirds of the produce; the tenant received the remainder. If the tenant neglected his duty, he had to pay rent to the landlord even if the produce was scanty. A Babylonian business contract of the Hammurabi period mentions the male flower of the date palm as an article of commerce.

In the ancient Mesopotamian world, the palm's most important role was as a source of nourishment. Wine was made from dates, and date honey was used as a sweetener. Seeds provided food for animals.

The nourishing properties of dates have been known throughout the millennia. The Arabs say, "A date is the food of the poor, the dessert of the rich, and the traveler's food." Mohammed is reported to have advised his followers: "Feed your wife dates after delivery."

Nutritional analysis has shown that dates have a high iron content and therefore are an ideal food to replenish iron lost by the mother during pregnancy. In addition, dates contain appreciable quantities of proteins, fats, vitamins, and mineral salts. They are also a high-energy food, as they are 50 percent sugar.

Moreover, the entire tree was put to use. Oil extracted from seeds was used as fuel. The trunk was used to construct supports and roofs for huts. The branches were transformed into shades and walls, the fiber into ropes. The leaves were (and still are) made into useful and decorative mats and baskets.

It is no wonder, then, that the ancients considered the palm to be the tree of life and therefore holy. The Assyrians had four holy signs; one of which was the palm tree. The Canaanites used to worship statues in the shape of a palm tree called Baal-Tamar, "lord of the palm."

The supreme goddess of the Phoenicians was Ashtoreth, goddess of love and fruitfulness, whom they worshipped in the shape of a palm. Baal and Ashtoreth are frequently mentioned in the Old Testament. worship and ritual were ventral to the culture of the ancient world, where annual festivals celebrated the victory of order over chaos in nature, the return of the life-sustaining spring rains, and the renewal of man and the community. In the city-states of the Middle East, where an urban society was based on an agrarian economy, high crop yields were of paramount importance. Therefore, fertility rites were integral to culture, and the palm tree was a symbol of fertility



and prosperity. For example, the Babylonians celebrated the pollination of the palm tree in an annual ritual to bring about a bountiful harvest.

A Mesopotamian cylinder seal (c.2300 B.C.) portrays a seated male figure wearing the headdress of a god and facing a female worshiper. Between them stands a palm tree with bunches of dates dangling on each side. Both figures are depicted as fully clothed and stretching their hands to the bunches of dates. Behind each figure is a snake. The seal is believed to represent a fertility rite but has been interpreted by some as a Babylonian version of the temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden.

The ancient Egyptians used the palm-rib hieroglyph for "year" symbolizing the annual flooding of the Nile, which brought symbol of prosperity in the Old Testament, where it is written that "the righteous shall flourish like the palm tree" (Psalm 92:12).

Because of its majestic appearance and fruitfulness, the date palm became a symbol of beauty and victory. In the ancient Near East, the palm tree motif decorated temples, palaces, city gates, and the crowns of kings. Solomon's Temple was decorated with depictions of palm trees. The Hebrew word *tamar* (Arabic *tamr*) means date palm. Tamara-as beautiful as a palm tree-was a common feminine name. The palm was also an emblem of victory after wars.

### History, folklore, and mythology

Scientists and archaeologists say the date palm originated near the Arabian Gulf. Exactly when the palm was introduced into Mesopotamia is not known, but it came to Europe in the seventh century, when the Arabs conquered Spain. Spanish missionaries carried the tree to the New World in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The history, poetry, and folklore of the Arabs reveal a special bond to the palm tree. Many of these ancient customs and traditions have survived, particularly among the Bedouin. The Arabs have an intimate knowledge of the palm and can identify more than a hundred parts of the tree. Books on its history and cultivation abound in Arabic.

In ancient times, life in the desert depended on two living things: the camel and the palm tree. For the Bedouin, the camel was the special gift of Allah. Without it, life in the desert was inconceivable. Yet, though the camel may be the "ship of the desert," the palm tree is the desert's undisputed queen.

The date palm thrives where the climate is hot and dry and flourishes in oases, growing to about seventy-five feet tall. Its slender trunk is straight and sturdy; marked with the pruned stubs of old leaf bases, it terminates in a crown of graceful, shining pinnate leaves about five feet long. Atop the trunk, in the center, is a white, tender terminal bud from which new leaves arise. The Arabs call this the heart of the palm and it is the most sensitive part of the tree. When exposed to cold and moisture, the heart goes into a state of shock and the tree dies.

There is a touching story about Abdul al-Rahman I, ruler of Arab Spain in the eighth century. In his garden, he grew a date palm as a reminder of his homeland, Syria. He dedicated a sad little poem to the tree, expressing his loneliness away from home: "Like me, thou art separated from relations and friends; thou didst grow in a dif-

ferent soil, and now thou art far from the land of thy birth."

Indeed, so dear is the date palm to the Arabs that Harun al-Rashid, the celebrated Abbasid caliph of the vast ninth-century Arab empire whose court in Baghdad was renowned for its luxury and sophistication, reportedly said: "All the gold and silver on earth are not worth the palm trees in Basra."

Because the Arabs have lived with the palm from the dawn of history, it is not unusual for them to attribute human qualities to the tree. Their literature on palm trees is full of such analogies. The Prophet Muhammed (P) is quoted as having said: "Honor your aunt, the palm tree; it was created from the same clay as Adam."

Palm trees have similarities to man: They stand erect, and there are males and females; they do not bear fruit unless fertilized; it dies if the head is cut off; if its "heart" goes into shock, it dies; if its branch is cut off, it cannot grow another on from the same place; it is covered with leaves similar to human hair over the body. Are these not characteristics similar to man?

Arab mythology reflects the intertwined lives of the Arabs and the palm tree. When God created Adam, he ordered the angels to put soil in the sieve, *nakl*. (The Arabic word *nakl* also means palm tree.) From the clean soil, God made Adam, and with what was left in the sieve, God created the palm.

When he was in heaven, Adam is said to have loved the date palm, and he missed the tree when he was banished to earth. He asked God to send him a palm, and God did. When Adam approached death, he asked his sons to place the tree's evergreen foliage in his grave. This burial practice persisted up to the time of Christ.

### Common roots

The tenets and social institutions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam reveal striking similarities: belief in a single, omnipotent God, the Creator of the universe and mankind; man's fall from grace (original sin); penance through prayer and fasting; and belief in an afterlife where virtue will be rewarded and sin punished by divine judgment after death. All three faiths maintain a code of laws and moral conduct defining individual relationships, as well as man's responsibility to his community and environment. The sanctity of human life, marriage and the family, justice, goodness and truth, wisdom and learning, courage, loyalty, and compassion are values cherished by all. Appreciation of the faiths' shared beliefs, moral values, and cultural symbols reminds us that they are the heirs and guardians of an ancient civilization whose imprint deeply influenced Western civilization.

Still, the cycle of religious persecution and intolerance that has blighted the history of modern man continues to plague us as we stand on the threshold of the twenty-first century. Confusion, uncertainty, insecurity, and erosion of traditional values beleaguer us, magnifying superficial cultural differences and exaggerating our sense of alienation. The origins and meanings of social and religious rituals are lost in the sands of time, but the symbols preserved in our rites and arts illuminate our common past, our origin, identity, and destiny. The widespread diffusion of the date palm as cultural symbol demonstrates that Christians, Jews, and Arabs share a common ancestry and heritage, binding us into a single brotherhood that is much more profound than we realize.

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## **Yemen Hunt Oil Company** Another Milestone in the Yemenization Effort

**KHALID ALI AHMED AL-KHADER**

is the new

**COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER,****Yemen Hunt Oil Company**

Yemen Hunt Oil Company has announced the promotion of Engineer/KHALID ALI AL-KHADER to the position of Manager of Communications Department as of October, 1995.

This move is a part of Yemen Hunt Oil Company's continuous Yemenization program. As the Communications Manager, engineer KHALID ALI AL-KHADER will be responsible for supervising 31 employees, maintaining the capability for rapid response to communications disruptions and preparing the annual budget. The communications Department maintains the supervisory control system for the export pipeline from the Central Production Unit near Marib to the FSO Safer marine terminal at Ras Isa. Responsibilities also include voice and data transmission/reception to all operating sites, two-way UHF communication system and interconnection to telephone and telex facilities with ROY telephone services.

Engineer KHALID ALI AL-KHADER graduated in December, 1987 from George Washington University in the USA, as an Electrical Engineer with an emphasis in communication and electronic design. He was selected to the Deans Honors and Commendation list. After graduation he worked in various jobs including computer engineer and later as a Facility Engineer at the embassy of the United States of America in Sana'a.

Engineer KHALID ALI AL-KHADER joined Yemen Hunt Oil Company on October 1993 as an engineer, and was a recipient of YHOC's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1995.





**26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 11-4-96**

**(Mouthpiece of the Military)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) 52 Somalis Drown in the Gulf of Aden
- 2) 26 International Companies Compete For Sana'a Sewage Treatment Plant Project
- 3) Egyptian Ambassador: The Release of All Egyptian Ships and Fishermen Detained in Hodeida

**Article Summary:**

**1) Republican Decrees**

The following official establishments/appointments were made through Republican Decrees:

- 1) Decree No 45/96: Establishes the Yemeni Public Corporation for Geological Surveys and Mineral Resources.
- 2) Decree No. 46/96: Establishment of the Yemeni Public Corporation for Petroleum and Gas.
- 3) Decree No. 47/96: Appointment of Rashid Saleh Ba-Rabba'a as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.
- 4) Decree No. 48/96: Appointment of Hamid Mohammed Amer as Chairman of the Public Authority for the Exploration and the Production of Petroleum.
- 5) Decree No. 49/96: Appointment of Mr. Adel Abdulkader Khoursheid as General Manager of the Yemeni Public Corporation for Petroleum and Gas.
- 6) Decree No. 50/96: Appointment of Ismael Nasser Al-Janad as General Manager or Managing Director of the Yemeni Public Authority for Geological Surveys and Mineral Resources.

**2) Dr. Al-Saqqaf Attacked and Accused, One More Time, of Treason.**

The official mouthpiece of the Yemeni Armed Forces, 26th September newspaper continues its almost weekly hard hitting attacks against the Yemen Times Chief Editor, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. This time for allegedly publishing confidential information on Yemen's preparations to regain Greater Hunaish Island which had been occupied by Eritrea. The paper did not explicitly spell out what kind of information the Yemen Times leaked out. For the second time in less than two months, the paper accused Dr. Saqqaf of treason, and called him a quisling.



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: **Hassan Al-Haifi**

**AL-THOURA: Daily (Sana'a) Dates as Shown (Official)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) 24-4-96: Signing of Educational and Scholastic Cooperation Accord Between Yemen and Qatar
- 2) 24-4-96: Yemen's Ambassador to the UNESCO Appointed Assistant General Manager at UNESCO for External Relations
- 3) 2-5-96: Yemen and Eritrea agree to Arbitration To Settle the Hunaish Archipelago Dispute Between Them.
- 4) 2-5-96: Seminar in Michigan on the Parliamentary Experience in Yemen.

**Article Summary:**

**Shall We Face the Future With the Advent of Alleyways**

Mutahhar Al-Ashmury, a regular contributor to the daily column, Al-Thoura's Diary, looks at some of the problems confronting the Yemeni socio-political environment. He says we turned our cities into small alleyways as a result of haphazard town planning based on impulsive decision making at the highest levels, which must be overcome. He cited examples:

- 1) Senior officials regularly authorize gratuitous payments to gain the loyalty of subordinate staff or the favors of other officials in other authorities.
- 2) Senior officials constantly talk about corruption in government but really do nothing to counter it, or even busy increasing their party's coffers.
- 3) Important dignitaries, who have lost their influential positions (ruling coalition or opposition party members) constantly throw a dark omen regarding the future since their criticisms of the present situation in the country are both unrealistic and self-motivated.

Thus with this kind of an elite at the top of government - military senior brass as well - it becomes worrisome to look at the future of the nation. In the wake of all our national problems, of which the sudden challenge brought on by the Eritrean challenge in the Hunaish crisis, should be regarded as a clear indication of our weakness as a nation. The only way to stand up to such challenges is by beginning to reshape our thinking on a sound institutional footing and on full adherence to law and order.

**2. Approval of the National Environmental Action Plan**

The Environmental Protection Council, a senior official body that is composed of an inter ministerial membership and a Secretariat of specialists to deal with the depletion of resources and reconditioning the environment has approved the National Environmental Action Plan which deals with various environmental and resource management issues. This will focus on the establishment of appropriate policies and the implementation of various priority projects to cater to urgent environmental situations. The plan, the paper said, has been incorporated in Yemen's National Five Year Plans.

**AL-TAJJAMMU'U Weekly (Sana'a) : 22-4-95 (The Yemeni Unionist Congregation)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) 400 Workers Laid Off on the Occasion of Eid Al-Adha and Labor Day
- 2) Opposition Coordination Council Calls for Solidarity With Lebanese People
- 3) Movements and More Movements in Al-Yaman Airlines

**Article Summary:**

**Oh People!**

In its opening editorial, the paper criticizes Arab

leadership of being so naive as to expect that Israel can "Control itself as called for by the US in the beligerency in Lebanon". The paper says that Israel never had any intention of controlling itself as its raids have exceeded 1000 in number (by 22-4-96), displaced half a million from their homes and killed even Syrians troops among those who are guarding slogans like "Hafez Al-Assad, Our President Forever!"

We Arabs are in the process of being made subservient to Israel, to do with us as it likes, anytime it wants to, including changes in population and their distribution by mass killing. Since the Arab leaders know that Israel has carried a big burden "fighting terrorism (of course, this is said in sarcasm!)", they have submitted to it.

On the American position, the paper points out that a wide gap exists in the political thinking in Washington from Eisenhower's warning (to the UK, France and Israel upon their invasion of Sinai) 40 years ago and to Clinton's position in 1996.

**AL-WAHDAH: Weekly (Sana'a) 24-4-96 (Official)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Open Trial of the "16" (Secessionist Leaders) Right after the Holiday Vacation
- 2) Yahya AL-Shamy (Y.S.P. Leader): "No Organized Dialogue between the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah). The People's General Congress Leadership Showed Readiness to Solve the Y.S.P.'s Problems."
- 3) Political Parties and Other Yemeni Organizations Denounce Israeli Aggression of Lebanon.

**Article Summary:**

**Democracy Should Be Aailed for Serving the Nation**

Mohammed Ahmed Al A'ashmaly criticizes the opposition for not having a full understanding of what democracy entails, and for not showing enough patriotism. The opposition parties have yet to institute democracy in their own parties. Moreover, the writer believes that the opposition parties are at a big distance from reality and have no real contact with the people. "There is no framework that indicates that these parties are appropriately institutionalized according to modern democratic practices. The opposition parties suffer from schizophrenia and are going against progress," the paper concluded.

## Letters to the Editor

### CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH!!

It is time to congratulate the people of Yemen and Canadian Occidental Petroleum of Yemen on the occasion of exporting "100 million barrels" of crude oil from Masila Block.

By now, Canadian Occidental company has doubled its asset and strengthened its financial position and reached the milestone and no mention the potential profits gained in this operations as they are accountable for their share holders, creditors etc.

With regards to the people of Yemen, it's not every body's (Yemeni) business to worry about the big quantities of crude oil shipped out of the country except for those who are at the helm of authority who are accountable for *none* !

It is sad to put in figures the 100 million barrels of crude oil shipped out of the desert area of the country - Masila block - and then see the suffering of the Yemeni people and how they are being deprived of the basic elements of life!

The following equation says it all.

100 million barrels x 15US\$ (approx.) = 1.5 billion (gross) less operating costs, less cost recovery = net return of the crude oil for MOMR (ministry of oil and natural resources) = big money!!

Is it not the right of the citizens of this country to ask where the revenues of the oil exports are. Note, my equation above is only for the Masila block oil, and does not include the oil extracted by Yemen Hunt from Marib. What have been the benefits for the Yemeni people from the oil exports? Most Yemenis are almost hopeless in this country. They have no water, no electricity, no employment!!!

Imagine Mukalla city is left without electricity or water for almost one year and the people are next to getting mad because of the current situation.

Despite easing the economic burden inflicted on citizens of this government by way of giving them freedom to express their feelings and shout in the papers, the people are getting disenchanted of this policy which states - "The people can shout as much as they want, and the officials will do whatever they want."

Now to add insult to injury, the local political security offices scattered all over the republic are now in full gear - rounding up the citizens, pinning labels on them such separatist, conspirator, collaborator, saboteur, and many other labels.

Finally I ask Allah to direct the words of this letter to those hearts which are still open and are not as those stated in the Holy Qur'an DEAF, DUMB, BLIND AND WHO WILL NOT UNDERSTAND.

My motive for writing this letter is not a grudge that I may have for any group of people, neither is it because of any affiliation to any political party. But, it is based on my thorough contemplation on the present conditions which pushed me to writing this letter., otherwise imagine how stressful is my soul?.

Ahmed S. Abdall, Mukalla.

### ELECTRICAL METER READINGS NEW RATES

Since-I do not want the Electricity Authority to penalize me, I am asking you to with-hold my name and address. If you can't do that, please do not publish the letter altogether.

**What is Happening:**

Not long ago, the electric utility decided to increase the tariffs. Well, fair enough, since the price for one unit of electricity does not cover the costs ! In addition, supply is much less than demand, which is why there are so many load shedding hours.

We now have to pay more. Technically, this is also correct since most people here are not using energy saving methods. For example, instead of illuminating each room with at least five 60 to 100 Watt bulbs, they could use fluorescent lamps. In addition, you can see families leaving the lights on in each of their rooms, even when they are not using them. The new rates are being charged in progressive levels of consumption. For the first 200 kilowatt hours per month, you pay a lower rate than for each additional level of consumption. As the volume of consumption increases, so does the rate.

I don't have any problems so far. But, I get upset when I am charged for electricity I have not consumed. The meter reading technique of the utility must be a novelty. At one time, I was charged for a volume, whereas my meter reads a much lower number. When I complained, they told me the meter reading personnel use estimates, especially if a house is closed.

Don't bother struggling to get the meter reading corrected, either. I now want to suggest that weather-proof electrical meters be installed outside the houses. I have seen this with water meters. It work should work for electricity.

Name With-held.

## ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY



On April 8, 1996 Ethiopian Airlines Attained 50 years of continued service.

The occasion was marked by colorful ceremony at the head office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as Thiopian Airlines' Areas all over the world.

A cocktail party was held at Sheraton Hotel, Sana'a on April 23, 1996 to commemorate the anniversary.

At the opening ceremony, a beautiful cake symbolising the Airlines 50th birth day was cut by the ethiopia charge de Affairs Dr. Dibaba Abdeta and the Area Manager Mr. Zerhun Mesfin.



new technology. It owes this success to the support of its customers who have given it their dedication and trust.

On behalf of the Airlines, Mr. Zerihun Mesfin, the Area Manager, wishes to convey his deep appreciation and gratitude to all its customers, the Government, the national Carriers and all those who stood by it during its long years of service to the Republic of Yemen for their support and encouragement.

Ethiopian Airlines promises to ensure the pride it has attained as



Ethiopian Airlines has prospered through the years by successfully adapting to the fast changing aviation market and

a major African carrier.

\* On the ceremony the honoring were over 100 people from travel agentes, presses.

\* Ethiopian Airlines started its inaugural flight to Nairobi, Cairo and followed weekly service to Djibuti and Aden.

\* And berfore 25 years started its flight to the former North Yemen to Taiz and now to Sana'a.

\* Ethiopian Airlines connect Middle East, Far East,West



Continued from page 7

## Networking Yemen:



Internet is one of the most important dimensions in the computing and information moving technology. Today, with a PC you can actually enter Super Computers anywhere in the world in a most effective way and fast way. You can get all the information you need about anything, for as low a cost as making a telephone call. This is one of the results of good networking, at a world scale. And it is coming to Yemen.

Linking up Yemen with the Internet, called Y.net (for Yemen net) is going to provide an important opportunity for the economy, banking, oil and other sectors, as well as for tourism, the free zone in Aden, etc.

**Q: What kind of service would NASS provide in this connection?**

**A:** NASS has signed a contract with TeleYemen to provide the hardware. This will be done in conjunction with Cisco, Compaq, ISG Motorola, Pipex, and Mercury. All these are world famous brand names. The system will be digitized with a load flow capacity of 64,000 bytes per second. All people who have a telephone line and a computer (as well as a modem) will be able to hook into the system.

I am sure that TeleYemen will provide more information through the media on this matter.

In addition, we will be involved in the networking and systems of moving information.

Let me just add one more point on the hardware and systems we are going to supply. We are looking into reliability in order to avoid nasty surprises and systems breakdowns. We really are approaching a new era in Yemen, and a major part of it is linking up with the information technology.

**Q: What are the problems you anticipate in this new step?**

**A:** Basically, any network provider has to understand and be aware of the dangers with respect to the host country's culture, social values, and other sensibilities. You also have to watch out for the rules and the regulations, as they are different from country to another. Then, there are the rights of the different parties locally, and internationally. This has to do with piracy and patent laws. You will find that recent business developments have been unclear and dirty.

The provider of the Internet should really control the information provided. I have heard Mr. Alan W. Oldfield, General

Manager of TeleYemen, stating that they are very conscious of this and that arrangements are made to meet the value requirements of the local society.

**Q: You think the Internet or rather the Y.net will be profitable?**

**A:** I am sure sufficient studies have been done on this matter. There are, after, many embassies, oil companies, banks, insurance companies, universities, businessmen, and others who are in need of this service. I think the first phase will involve about 500 subscribers. I am sure the Yemen Times will be one of the early ones to hook into the system. In any case, I am neither the right person nor able to give exact information on the profitability of the project. I do know that we are dealing with professional companies, which while interested in serving, are also here to make a profitable business.

**Q: Slightly moving on to your standard business, we understand you are selling various computers and that you are planning an exhibition soon?**

**A:** It is very interesting to people who possess computers of whatever kind to keep updating them. Yes, we are constantly bringing in new hardware and up to-date programs in order to widen the horizon and capability of the users. You can say that we have a permanent in-house show and exhibition. But sometimes, we do go for a major advertising blitz to reach out to a much larger crowd. We have many laptops and new machines that are easy to use. The costs have also come down.

**Q: What kind of competition exists in this field?**

**A:** There are already a few companies working in the country. But this is a very sensitive business and you could lose one customer, and lose your shirt in the whole business because of it. We are lucky we have the backing of an important and able international company. This is crucial in providing reliable services to the public.

**Q: What is your final comment to your customers?**

**A:** Customers and users are often misled. This is a field in which advanced technology and complicated jargon is used to frighten and intimidate potential buyers. You should not buy something you don't understand. The seller has to make you feel at ease with the machine and software you are going to buy.

There are also visible differences in the price-range as well as in the programs available. Depending on your need, you should zero in on the product that most meets your need.

In the final analysis, the information technology is not as difficult and complicated as it sounds. I advise al Yemenis, specially the young ones, to jump in and try it out. It is the path of the future, and they will have to confront this challenge, sooner or later.

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## معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

### AL-FAROUK INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES & COMPUTER

#### Contest No. 67

Prepared by:  
**Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer**

P.O.Box 3637, Al-Raqas St., Near the Iranian Medical Center, Sanaa; Telephone (967-1) 209721, Fax 218 231

مر ب رقم (٢٦٣٧) ، صنعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء ، تليفون ٢٠٩٧٢١ (١-٩٦٧) ، فاكس ٢١٨٢٣١

Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farouk 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.

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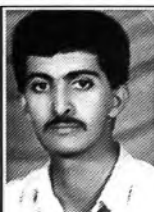
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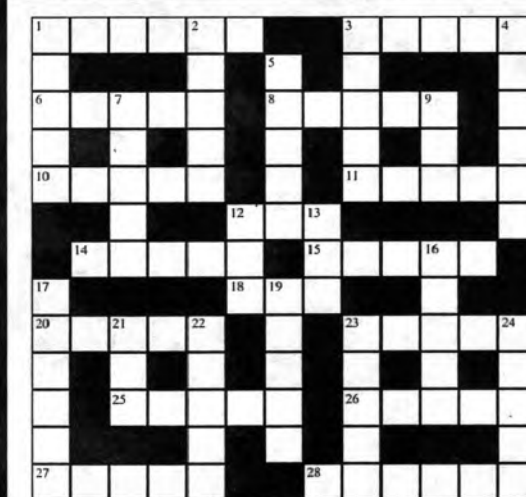


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وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

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**Across**

1. 6 ACROSS that crushes its prey.
3. Poison from a 6 ACROSS.
6. Slithery reptile.
8. 1960s dance craze.
10. Sports teams.
11. Throw out of school.
12. Hole-making tool.
14. Unkind.
15. Prize.
18. Fruit seed.
20. Hooded 6 ACROSS.
23. Paris river.
25. 'Golden delicious' fruit.
26. Cruise ship.
27. Back-bone.
28. — away: work extra hard.

**Down**

1. Fence supports.
2. Bowling spells.
3. Human sound.
4. Center.
5. The last—: too much to bear.
7. British 6 ACROSS.
9. End of a snooker-cue.
12. A Swiss mountain?
13. Circuit of a track.
16. rule of a monarch.
17. Bathroom weighing machine.
19. List found at the back of a book.
21. Large 6 ACROSS.
22. More than enough.
23. Fin the answer to (this clue!)
24. Mistake.

### Correct answers for contest No. (66)

A	B	G	R	E	A
C	I	R	C	U	S
T	A	A	B	M	P
R	E	V	E	R	S
E	E	D	E	V	Y
S	Y	J	E	D	S
C	A	R	A	T	R
E	F	C	T	C	O
B	R	I	C	K	E
O	B	D	R	O	C
N	O	R	M	A	L
Y	E	W	R	I	T

**WINNER OF CONTEST NO 66:**  
**Maria Fiona**  
(Indian nationality)



جائزة هذه المسابقة مقدمة من معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر  
The prize of this contest is donated by Al-Farouk Institute



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تلفون: ٢١٩٨٣٥

## Taiz Is in for Happy Surprises

"I will not visit you until you have completed the water project for the people to drink." That was President Ali Abdullah Saleh responding to the invitation of the Governor of Taiz, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri. The President was making a point. He wanted to emphasize the urgency and need getting on with the city water project. The President's pressure paid off. The National Water and Sanitation Authority had set up an emergency team, headed by Mr. Abbas Al-Mutawakkil, under the direct supervision of Dr. Mohammed Al-Saeedi, the

awaiting the President and the people of Taiz. The President will also inaugurate the flood control drainage system in Taiz. This has always been a major problem as the rain-water floods and torrents have menaced the people and property. The Aden-based General Corporation for Building and Construction executed this project. The President will further inaugurate the Taiz ring-road. "Other projects which are being vigorously pursued are the German-financed Vocational and Technical Institute of Taiz, as well as the electric grid link-up between

Taiz and Aden," the Governor indicated. The latter two projects will probably be completed for inauguration during the September/October Revolution celebrations. The Governor of Taiz has been able to cut through the bureaucratic hurdles and speed up implementation of long-dormant projects. Ali Naji Al-Ra'awi, Chief Editor of the Taiz-based daily Al-Gumhurriyah newspaper commented on the governor saying, "He does a lot of leg-work. He is always on the move, inspecting projects and meeting with the people."



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