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# YEMEN TIMES



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## \$200 million for Electronic Surveillance Projects

All of a sudden, representatives of various electronic companies descended on Sanaa last week. They came from India, Turkey, Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, etc. The Ministry of Interior has engaged in a 3-phase electronic and communications security network that will cover the whole country.

The first phase, which is an HF (high frequency) network covering the country's coastal stretch is already under way. The German AEG company, under a \$14 million contract, is implementing a portion of the deal. Other parts of the deal go to other companies, including Motorola which is discussing the provision of new, advanced walkie-talkies.

The second phase involves the conversion of high frequency signals so that callers

anywhere can transmit directly to Sanaa. The third phase will entail construction of costly radars to ensure a comprehensive network covering the whole country and territorial waters.

According to a Ministry of Interior source, the surveillance system will allow the authorities to better monitor the coastal stretch, respond to SOSs inside the country's territorial waters to save ships in trouble, connect the various presently-isolated security points, enable patrol boats to inspect illegal fishing inside the country's waters, combat across-desert smuggling, and observe civilian and military activities inside the country, within the territorial waters, and around the Yemeni islands.

The project will be completed in 1998.

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## Gas Scramble in Yemen

The tripartite talks (Yemeni Government, Total, Hunt/Exxon/Yukong Group) on the gas deal are expected to be resumed in a few days in Paris. The snag is over the Yemen's Government's insistence to apply the initial Total conditions, while the Hunt/Exxon/Yukong group have successfully negotiated amendments. It is on the basis of the amended format that the American/Korean group has agreed to participate in the project.

Meanwhile, continued delays are hurting the project. So far, the contractor has not concluded any sales contracts, a crucial factor in securing financing for the project. The project is envisaged to cost around \$ 3.5 billion.

At another level, the 26% government ownership in the project is subject to a fierce competition. Some 11% has been siphoned off for the Far East. The Japanese Sodec and Marubeni are competing with each other as well as with Hyundai. The Korean offer is the better among the lot, but the Japanese companies have more friends in government. As a result, the 11% is to be partitioned between them (6% for Sodec, 5% for Hyundai) unless they can work jointly.

To add to the complication, Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar, a rapidly rising business tycoon, has applied to siphon off another 6% from the government's share in the project.

## Yemen Drifting Back to Mr. Marx?

Last week, the diplomatic community in Yemen received a shock. A circular from the Foreign Ministry indicated that foreigners inviting Yemenis had to go through the Ministry. "The invitations are to be sent to the Ministry, which will stamp them, and then pass them on to the Yemeni invitees," the circular reads.

Earlier, the diplomats received a reminder on a previous Ministry letter asking them

to check up with the Ministry before embarking on trips inside the country. Many diplomats are inclined to ignore both directives. Some members of the international community expressed regret at the continued drifting of Yemen towards authoritarianism.

"As rulers lose control over the situation, they tend to become more dictatorial," is the way on lawyer explained the trend.

## PGC Raises Funds Using Ingenious Methods:

### Mohyeddin Al-Dhabbi:

**"The money paid by former YEDCO Chairman was not for me. It was for the PGC, amount being cost of land."**


Mr. Mohyeddin Al-Dhabbi, Vice Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, wrote to the Yemen Times indicating that the YR 7 million paid to him by Mr. Hazim Bakir, the former chairman of YEDCO (Yemen Drug Company), was not for him personally. The Vice Minister attached with his letter a document showing that he received the money but turned it over to his party, the People's General Congress (PGC). The money was the cost of a plot

of land in Taiz the PGC had 'sold' to the company. Meanwhile, reports leaked to the Yemen Times say that Mohyeddin Al-Dhabbi has himself paid out last week YR 100 million from his ministry's budget for purchase of land, again from the PGC.

Can Mohyeddin tell the people of Yemen how the PGC came about to be a major real estate owner in the country? Can he pin down the whereabouts of the land?

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## Hats Off for Itamar Rabinovich

Israel and Israelis continue to offer us Arabs lessons in self-respect and decency in the way we handle ourselves in politics. Let me use two examples.

First, against all odds, Israelis decided to change their government. Although I personally regret the direction of the change, I much admire and respect the will of the Israeli voters to bring about change at the top of government. Although the whole world, including their American patrons wanted it otherwise, the Israelis decided for themselves which direction the change will go. This change, unfortunately, disturbed the world calculations for peace. Yet, I can't help respecting the Israeli system.

Second, and more importantly, I would like to hail the Israeli ambassador in Washington, Mr. Itamar Rabinovich. I felt deep down how much self-respect this man has, and felt bitter that I have yet to see similar statesmanship from the flocks of Arab politicians and diplomats. Let us go over the facts.

Mr. Rabinovich's appointment to Washington does not come to end till February 1997, but he has decided to quit. The reason is simple, as he himself put it, in reference to the change in policy in Israel as a result of the coming to power of Benjamin Netanyahu. "I have been negotiating with the Syrians for four years. If I get different guidelines now, you expect me to say it has all changed now? I cannot do it. I have my identity."

He knows he will not and cannot work for Netanyahu, but still he returned home to help the new prime minister in his coming (8th July) visit to Washington.

How can Arab politicians - who are mostly self-centered, corrupt and inefficient people - stand as tall as Rabinovich? Arab politicians, and the Yemenis are probably the worst case scenario, have little self respect and hold no visible high morals and goals. This is the basic discrepancy in our ability to interact with other countries.

One does not have to be rich or well-educated to have self esteem and to act on the basis of personal convictions and values. Most Arab politicians and diplomats, unfortunately, are slaves of the big guy. In order to retain their posts, they are willing to do just about anything. In reality, they have been doing just about anything to please the number one fellow.

I don't think Rabinovich will ever get to read this piece, or that it will ever be brought to his attention. But it is not written for him. This piece will be read by the many Yemeni and Arab politicians and diplomats. I hope they will learn a few things about individual dignity and self respect. They can learn a few things about acting on the basis of personal conviction and values.

The world needs more politicians and diplomats like Itamar Rabinovich, irrespective of whether one agrees with him or not. The bottom-line is that when you deal with people like him, you know you are dealing with real human beings, not slaves.

**The Publisher**  
عبد العزيز

### Attorney General Summons Leaders of Secession

The Attorney-General of Yemen, Mr. Mohammed Al-Badri, issued last week a summons to the 15 persons who led the secessionist movement in South Yemen. The list includes Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas, Abdul-Rahman Al-Jafri, and the others.

The summons, published in the official newspapers, demanded that the said individuals show up in person for fair trials.

Of course, no one is expecting those guys to show up. However, many of them had announced that they would be willing to send lawyers to represent them if the Yemeni authorities were serious about a fair/open trial.

### Eritrea Offers Hunaish-Zuqar Area as Concession Block for International Investors

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Water Resources in Eritrea has issued a circular which has a map of the concession blocks up for grabs by international oil companies. The on-shore and off-shore blocks vary in size.

A surprising aspect of this map is that it includes the Zuqar-Hunaish Archipelago area, which comes out as Block No.17, as the map below shows.



### PSO Agents Haunt News-Stands

Once more last week, individuals claiming openly to be working for the Political Security Office (PSO) were haunting news-stands for displaying and selling opposition and independent newspapers. One such case is Abu Dhar Al-Ghaffary Book-Shop on Haddah Road in Sanaa. The owner is Sultan Hizam Al-Atwani of the Nasserite Party. "They come here and shower us with insults. They also try to confiscate all our copies of this or that newspaper. When we resisted last week, they said they will close down the shop," said Jameel, the person in charge.

### President Saleh Orders Release of Hadhramaut Citizens

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who received in audience elders of Hadhramaut, ordered the release of all citizens detained and imprisoned by security officers in Mukallah over the last two weeks. The President also indicated that he will arrange for more local autonomy. The elders expressed appreciation and gratitude for the positive response of the President.

### Ba-Sunaid Threatened by Security Official

Human rights activist Badr Ba-Sunaid was openly threatened by Mohammed S. Turaiq, Director-General of Aden Security. "If you don't know your limits, we can silence you," Colonel Turaiq told the lawyer. Ba-Sunaid is heavily involved in defending individuals victimized by the state and its officials.

# Al-Shoura Back in Print by Court Sentence

اشكار وزارة الاعلام لاصدار امر بوقف المحملة بجعل صاحب المطبعة في حل من امره ، ولما كانت مذكرة وزير الشئون القانونية رئيس لجنة الاحزاب والتنظيم على فرض صدور هاتمه - موجبة الى النائب العام ، والله لم يحل الى صاحب المطبعة او الى المحكمة ما يتيسر الى استصدار النائب العام اي قرار قضائي بهذا المسند.

لسذلك

ورامالا لاتكام الشريعة الاسلامية الفرائص ونصوم قناتون الصحافة والمطبوعات رقم (٢٥) لسنة ١٩٩٠م حيث المحكمة الابتدائية لفرمانا الماصم به باستصدار طبع واصدار صحيفة المسوري اممالا للاضليل وعلى مطابع المسوق وغيره من المطابع المتخصصة القيام بذلك حسب المتعارف والمتفرغ عليه مناهل المهنة .. وهذا ما توجه به كان المكتم والله الموفق الهادي الى الصواب هو مسبقنا ونعم الوكيل.

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The Primary Court of West Sanaa issued its verdict last week on the case of Al-Shoura newspaper versus the Ministry of Information. The court, following an eight months trial, decided that there was no legal reason for blocking the issuance of the newspaper. The presiding judge, Abdul-Malik Abdullah Al-Jindary and his assistant Judge Ali Mohammed Al-Mursid decreed that the newspaper may resume publication at time. Pro-democracy groups all over the country hailed the decision as a landmark

in the political evolution of the country. Ittihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyyah party was delighted with the decision. Tariq Al-Shami, Assistant Secretary-General of the party, said that the newspaper will be return to the news-stand next week. Al-Shoura readers are also delighted with the news. That case was the third Al-Shoura lawsuit. Al-Wahdawi is another newspaper that has been battling law-suits in the courts. No opposition/independent newspaper had been spared the law-suits.

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Editor-in-Chief & Publisher:  
**Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf**

Sanaa Bureau Chief: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
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**Manfred Haack:**

**"I am convinced that Arab countries need to accelerate their transformation to more democracy."**

The transformation process of Yemen, dubbed democratization, is sending conflicting signals. The regime in the Republic of Yemen, which once held the prospect of giving the Arab World its first real model of democracy and pluralism, has long fallen back to its true authoritarian nature.

Many friends of Yemen are watching this process with a lot of un-ease and anxiety. Some of them are even willing to help out in any way possible so that the experience does not end up in a flop. Many individuals, international NGOs, and governments have shown keen interest to help shore-up Yemen's democratization effort. Among these is the Friederich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

The FES is a German NGO which is cooperating with local NGOs worldwide in promoting values of liberty, human rights, press freedom, pluralist democracy, etc. It has already established itself within the Arab region. The FES has on-going projects in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, etc.

Now it has come to Yemen.

The Regional Director of the FES, Mr. Manfred Haack, visited Sana'a for the second time in less than two months. His objective is to seek partner NGOs to work together to advance their shared goals.

On the occasion of his visit, M. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times discussed with him many issues of relevance to his work. Here excerpts of the interview.

**Q. As the regional manager of the activities of FES, how do you see the political transformation of the Arab countries?**

**A.** From my point of view, there is not so much transformation in the Arab countries. Maybe, we can say Jordan and Yemen are exceptions.

There were some hopes that the peace process in Palestine would put away one of the main obstacles to democracy and economic prosperity in the region. But now after the Israeli elections, I fear that several Arab countries will keep their current political shape and remain in a waiting position, which also can be understood as political stagnation.

Personally, I am convinced that Arab countries need to accelerate their transformation to more democracy. This need not be based on blind imitation of the West. It can be on the basis of the local social values and cultural traditions. I feel this is more or less what Jordan and Yemen are doing.

**Q. What is the contribution of FES to this transformation?**

**A.** FES should not be seen as motivating the transformation processes in Arab countries because these should be carried out by the local populations in their own visions.

Like many other German NGOs, FES is here to cooperate, not to



give advice, or in the worst cases to interfere in Arab internal affairs.

Of course, FES is willing to support any efforts by its partners and friends in the Arab countries to achieve more democratic participation and better living conditions for the people.

**Q. You recently visited Yemen and now you are here again. What is your impression of Yemen's political situation?**

**A.** Based on my first visit, my impressions of Yemen are overwhelming, because of the hospitality of the people, and beauty of the country.

But regarding assessment of the

political situation, please give me more time to reach objective and fair conclusions. But I am convinced that Yemen has the potential to achieve progress in both - political reconstruction after the unification and in economic development.

**Q. We understand the purpose of your visit is to discuss the contribution of FES contributions and involvement in certain projects. Can you give us details?**

**A.** This is my second visit to Yemen and it is aimed at learning more about the country, and to negotiate a kind of legal status for the work of FES in Yemen.

Our first projects will be a cooperation with the university of Sana'a. This is in the form of provision of material and equipment for the establishment of a department for German Studies. We think there is scope and need for such an effort.

The first real project for us in support of the political evolution of the country is an effort to improve the chances of female candidates in the elections of April of 1997. We feel that a more fair representation of women is possible in the next parliament. Of course, this is up to the Yemeni voters, and our role is simply to assist in this process.

We have discussed this project with many local NGOs, especially the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD). We have agreed with the YIDD to co-finance at least the first two phases of the project.

I am happy to note here that the Yemen Times is also co-financing this effort.

**Q. You have expressed interest in establishing a presence in Yemen. Can you explain?**

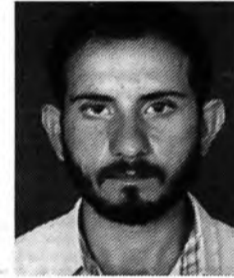
**A.** Let me distinguish between my personal ideas, or let me call it my dreams, and the real chances or possibilities.

I am dreaming of a small FES office in the old town of Sana'a. I am working to make it possible to establish some kind of physical presence for ourselves. In reality, however, it is necessary at first to start some successful projects. Once we are positively engaged with Yemen, it becomes possible to speak of a presence.

In any case, we will also need a legal framework through which our efforts will be channelled. We are now looking into alternative options of institutions which will serve as our partners.

**Q. Any additional comments?**

**A.** I am happy with the contacts we have established already. We look forward to a meaningful and substantive cooperation with Yemen.



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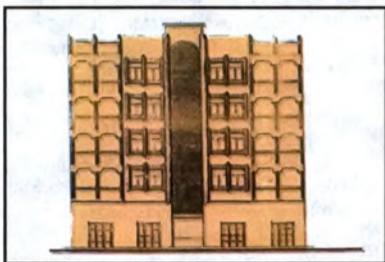
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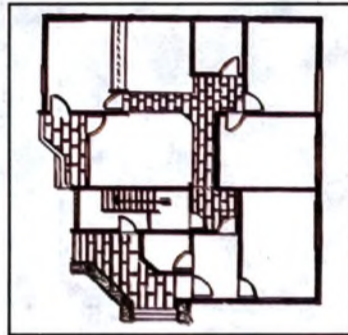
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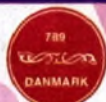


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Yemeni career women have a much harder time than their male counterparts. The trouble comes from two sources. At home, career women continue to shoulder their traditional burdens of household chores. The concept of men helping out in some of the household work is a very alien and remote possibility. That means career women are worse off than housewives, because they carry a double burden. But it doesn't end there. Career women also face exceptional hardships at work. They face discriminatory policies and decisions, to which their male counterparts are not exposed. Nobody knows this better than the few female lawyers and judges. Actually, there are no longer female judges in the country. The two dozen or so judges inherited from the former South Yemen (PDRY) have long been dismissed, retired, or relegated to administrative duties. Thanks in great part to our minister of justice. But this article is about lawyers. I went the other day to speak to the three female lawyers who established the first ever office in Sanaa managed by female lawyers. The office is aptly called Ar-Raiditat Lil-Mohamah (Female Pioneers for Advocacy).

The trio pioneers includes Ms. Nabeelah Mohammed Al-Mufti from Sanaa. Nabeelah, 27, is a graduate of law from Sanaa University. Then there is Shatha Mohammed Nasser is from Aden. Shatha (th as in the), 32, was born in Aden. She got her law degree from Charles Carlova in Prague, the Czech Republic. Finally, there is Ghuna Haidar Al-Miqdad, also from Sanaa. Ghuna, 34, is also a Sanaa University graduate. Al-Izzy As-Selwi of Yemen Times went to interview the three women in their law firm. Here are excerpts.



**Q: Let us start with the beginning - the idea. How did you start with this office?**

**A:** Since our graduation, we have been practicing law. But it always under someone else's name or office. You know there are no law firms managed by women. So, we thought to start our own firm. We also thought of this step as a major manifestation of the evolution of career women in Sanaa. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals who have encouraged us. They include many lawyers and judges, notably Judge Mohammed Al-Wadiyi. You can call our project as a calculated risk. We think it is a good idea.

**Q: And how is business.**

**A:** The law firm was established some four months ago. It is still in its early stages. Even then, we have had many cases already, as our firm is making its mark on the market. Let us stress here, however, that this firm is not just for purely business reasons. We are trying to open up new horizons for career women. We are also trying to play a role in helping people who have been unjustly treated or whose rights and assets have been compromised.

**Q: What kind of cases have you been handling? I mean have you had a larger share of female clients?**

**A:** Let us indicate that we are not open just for female clients. We have had all kinds of cases, although we expect women to feel more comfortable in presenting their case with/through us. This is true, especially when the issues are of a more personal or social nature. We have taken up cases of crimes, financial cases, personal disputes, etc. At this stage, more of our customers are male than female. But, in terms of the total cases of female suers, we expect a larger share in the future.

**Q: Are there times when you felt strongly about the case?**

**A:** As human beings, we tend to identify with the victims. Of course, our training and our duty is to remain objective and search for the facts. But at times, we become involved as human beings. An example of this are rape cases, or when individuals (especially women) are victimized because they are unable to protect their rights or property. We have, as a matter of fact, volunteered our services in a few of such cases.



The trio managing the first female law firm in Sanaa: Nabeela, Shatha and Ghuna

**Q: How would you describe your relationship with your male colleagues?**

**A:** We have never really had any problems with our colleagues. It is a normal relationship. We do not face any special difficulties, and we do not receive any special treatment, either.

**Q: How do the judges and court assistants/staff treat you?**

**A:** Now it is okay. It all really depends on the individual person. Some judges go out of their way to help, almost patronizing. Some are amused. Others are uneasy. It is something you cannot generalize. But we have to say that our work is not affected negatively.

**Q: How have your families reacted to your decision to start your law firm?**

**Note:** The answers here were different between the Sanaa women and the Aden woman. **A:** (Sanaa women): In general,

they are understanding. They are willing to go along, but they were apprehensive about how society would re-act. They were worried we would run in trouble with society.

We agreed to retain our traditional dress as a step to appease our families and society. While we feel the face-cover is not necessary from a religious view, it should not be a hindrance in our doing our work.

Let us conclude that our families are now relaxed and feel confident our decision was right.

Sometimes we disagree with certain values or traditions, but society still holds on to them strongly. We should accept that, and work around it. Our effort is an example.

(Aden family): My family was supportive. There were no constraints. Basically, they have confidence I will be able to handle whatever situation arises. It has helped that career women is a normal part of life in Aden.

**Q: Do you expect more female lawyers will start up their law firms?**

**A:** Yes. Our experiment has succeeded and we fell we have taken the risk to open the way. There are quite a number of women who have been qualified to serve as lawyers, attorneys and judges. They should be given the chance to contribute, especially since the a higher proportion of women are victimized than men. Female lawyers, attorneys and judges can help in reducing the possibilities of victimizing women with impunity.

**Q: You think there is something the state can do?**

**A:** Yes. The state should slowly phase more career women, especially in this important sector. The modernists in government should stand up to the pressures to take us back in time. The media can also play an important role. Yemen Times is already leading this effort.



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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Out of Touch With the People

No one can ever rightfully suggest that the Republic of Yemen is not indeed in the midst of a national situation that seriously needs urgent attention before such a situation gets out of hand. It goes without saying that further deterioration would not be favorable, for the regime or the general population. One cannot guarantee that further deterioration will not be an invitation to civil and social unrest which could jeopardize whatever remains of peace and stability. Yemen needs peace and stability in order to achieve any economic recovery.

The Republic of Yemen has undergone needless turmoil over the past six years because of an apparent difference in the mentality of the rulers and the views of the general public. This distance in understanding needs to be reduced considerably as a primary step in avoiding a national catastrophe - and in setting the country in the right direction. The most important reason for such divergent views may be the insistence of the rulers to continue to act as trustees regarding their people's interests. They do not give the people the chance to participate in the decision making process and in the search for ways to bring an end to the nation's continued crisis and management by crisis!

The most unfortunate trend that

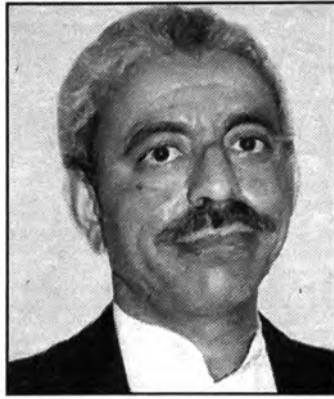
seems apparent is the regression of the steps forward the nation had taken in the past. Unfortunately, there seems to be a return to traditional methods in managing the country's affairs, which seem disturbingly feudal. The September/October Revolutions were the work of Yemenis who saw that it was time for Yemen to break away from the past and its oppressive chains (the Hamiduldeen Monarchy in the north and British Colonial Rule in the south, respectively).

What is apparent is that the break with the past has been only in form. The Monarchy is over with and the British are out, but much of the past still remains with us, and presents serious obstacles to the nations progress.

One does not like to look critically at modern Yemeni national movements of the past or their heroes. But for sure, it is easy to state that we are far from having fulfilled the objectives of these movements or their sponsors, martyrs and supporters.

On the other hand, Yemen is still subjected to a strong influence from regional and international sources, which have actually limited the political sovereignty of the Yemeni people and reduced their ability to enjoy their full civil and human rights in accordance with modern political and social standards.

The road still appears to be rough. The setbacks have been far



too many and the blame lies with the Yemeni people, first and last. Aspirations, lots of promises and propaganda are not sufficient by themselves to guide Yemen to modern nationhood. National pride, excessive reliance on devotion to archaic traditions, and the politicization of every national activity are serious drawbacks to any efforts in making the giant leap needed to upgrade the Yemeni people's conditions and standard of life.

A totalitarian approach has settled in on the country although this approach has shifted to various power centers, most of which were out of touch with the Yemeni people's needs and rights and which have failed to advance the overall welfare and interests of these people. Even the opportunities availed to Yemen to make such advances have been inappropriately exploited to work against the maximum widespread benefit to the Yemeni people at large. On the other hand, the country's standing as a sovereign entity has been greatly weakened. This situation has led to considerable encroachments on our territorial rights and allowed for considerable outside interference in the conduct of our political, economic and, to a noticeable degree, our social affairs. Much has been written and discussed on the circumstances leading to

our mainly unsatisfactory conditions and to our present weakness in asserting our sovereign dimensions internationally and externally, but most of these discussions have taken strictly superficial.

There is no comparative analysis. There was no evaluation of results arrived at, quantitatively and qualitatively. Finally, there was no rational, emotion-free adherence to a national platform, on which all can find security, peace of mind and a more pleasant medium for innovation and creativity to launch economic growth.

Thus, Yemen's national philosophical attitude needs to be revived considerably, and as a democratic society it must be recognized that such revision cannot be confined to any grouping within Yemeni society. Yemen has a population of 16 million and in one way or another, all these people must be involved in getting Yemen to rehabilitate its national mentality.

From the above, it seems quite clear that the ruling power centers, with all the institutions they rely on to continue to retain the elements of power and wealth, face the hardest times just when their positions have become well entrenched. Yet, the excessive attention to political maneuvering still remains the over-riding concern of the government to the point that this observer feels that functional roles are almost neglected, unless political considerations come into play in such roles. With the approach of the April 1997 elections, these functional roles tend to be mobilized towards political advantage even more so. The interesting feedback one gets from the general public is that people are not going to be so easily fooled, all the time!

The rulers have to realize that when a large segment of the population lives under conditions of near-starvation and when government seems to serve the interests of a very small segment, there is a dangerous fault in society. It is not healthy for a society to have to continue to live with this fault. Since this fault is essentially human, the remedy must also be human and, for sure, urgently needed.

Much that goes on in government is logically unexplainable. There seems to be two different realities in our society. There is the official reality. This reality is in actuality, a facade - a disguise - a suspicious distortion of the truth. This reality belongs only to those who create it. Many of them would even be ready to swear that this ready-made reality is life itself! The other reality is slightly different. This reality is the one to which the five senses respond. Can that be totally ignored?

In a democracy, it is that which is felt which overrules everything else. Legitimacy is not merely what may be imposed on a society; legitimacy must be approved. It is not enough that the government has its own reality well laid out to its sponsor's narrow and ambitious drives, but to deny a reality that confronts the overwhelming majority of the people of Yemen, and hits them hard, is just not fair, let alone undemocratic.

At this stage, the Republic of Yemen faces two very important national issues. From these two issues all of Yemen's trouble spots branch out. The issues are democracy/political freedom and the challenges to national sovereignty.

1. Democracy/Political Freedom According to the Unification Agreement between the two former, sovereign Yemens, the political course which the new Republic of Yemen was to

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follow was clearly defined: the people of Yemen are the only source of power and authority.

To give this course greater strength and legitimacy, the Constitution of Unity, as it was called, was finalized and put to a national referendum, which in turn made the Unification Agreement binding. Moreover, the public approval achieved by the referendum pretty much cuts away any claims of trusteeship that any element of the population may have on the Yemeni people. As a whole, it restricts political activity to that what is ordained by them to basic legally authoritative documents, that still have legal precedence above all constitutional proceedings which have followed the referendum. Any subsequent amendments passed are illegal since they were not subjected to national referendum. What solidifies the basic constitution even further is the all-important Document for Pledge and Accord, which all the active political forces in Yemen (rulers, opposition, independents, social leadership, etc.) have become committed to. This document is of constitutional significance in that it asserts that the national elites and the recognized political forces are bound by the constitutional framework approved by the people of Yemen and release themselves from any right to operate in the society outside such a framework.

Accordingly, with the Constitution, having received popular mandate, as such, political freedom and democracy are guaranteed and insisted upon. Any efforts to infringe upon these important gains by any element of the society, regardless of the justifications, given, is unconstitutional. Moreover such infringement, even if under presumably legal pretense, are unquestionably in neglect of important gains that have been acquired by the citizens of Yemen and may even represent inexcusable encroachments into the rights of the people as set out clearly in the Constitution. Such infringements clearly suggest that those who sponsor and execute such infringements are willing to challenge the will of the people and to go to the point of restricting the political rights of the Yemeni people and to limit political activity to a select small minority, who have allowed themselves far more rights than those which are constitutionally

provided, at the expense of the rights of the overwhelming majority. In such a legal impasse, political freedom, plurality and democracy have taken on different meanings than those that have obtained full legal and public endorsement.

The next parliamentary elections must be made to echo the inviolable nature of constitutional rights. It is not easy, of course, but without such a return to basics, democracy and political freedom are empty decorative slogans, and government will continue to remain out of touch with the people.

#### 2. Sovereignty:

There have been autocratic regimes, in Yemen and elsewhere, that manage to uphold national sovereignty with better effectiveness than the present regime. However, the Republic of Yemen has shown an obvious weakness in asserting its sovereignty, notwithstanding all the circumstantial factors that have been involved regionally or internationally.

Sovereign rights can't just rely on international legislative or institutional frameworks to be upheld. A nation must be prepared to deal with any serious violation of its sovereign rights. This requires a clear definition of what these rights are. On top of that, all possible dangers are always kept in mind, well planned alternatives are established for dealing with any efforts to dispute or violate such sovereign rights.

A look at the Yemeni situation is clear testimony that the sovereignty of the Republic has become easy prey to many an outside power, with the regime apparently proving that such encroachments are a reflection of the regimes lack of aptitude in protecting the national interests of the country.

On the other hand, the insistence of the rulers on the least amount of public awareness on the developments on major issues of sovereignty facing Yemen, may actually add further weakness to the country's position. Again, this is a regime that insists to remain out of touch with its people.

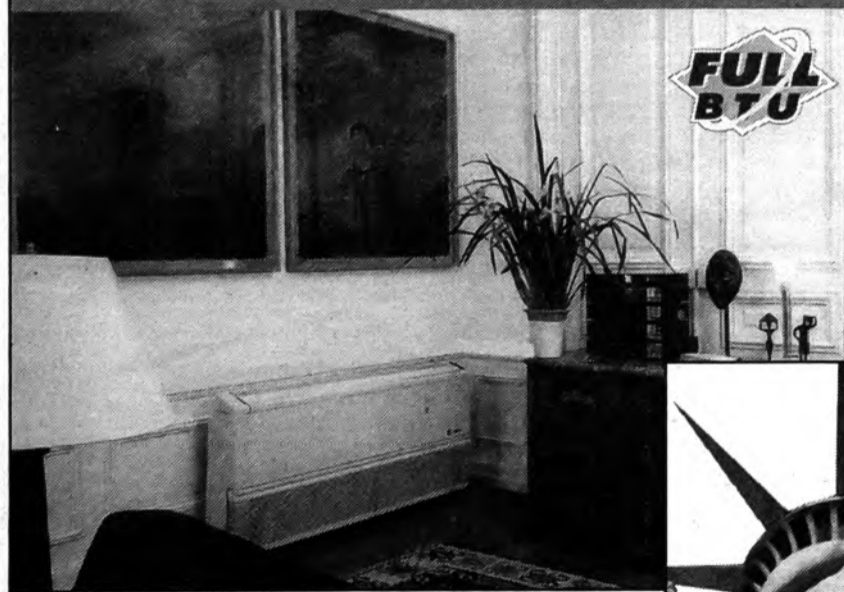
Of course, national sovereignty concerns of Yemen, should not ignore the obvious link-up between political forces in the country with influence from abroad. This influence is visible in elements of both the regime and opposition political forces in the country.

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# Yemen's Economic Reform Program: Good Idea, Bad Implementation

Last week witnessed high level talks between an IMF delegation and Yemeni officials. It was about the country's foreign debt, especially the arrears. The agenda for the Paris Club discussions, scheduled for mid-July, was set. The Yemeni delegation, headed by Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, will get to enjoy the 14th July celebrations in Paris.

The basic question persists: Why does Yemen need to go to the Paris Club? It needs it to release the \$193 million IMF stand-by 15-month credit facility approved in March this year.

The Yemenis are told that re-scheduling will be done on most favorable Naples terms. That, of course, is a hoax since the terms of the Yemeni loans now, are much softer than the Naples terms. Thus, neither the government nor the IMF are able to answer why Yemen needs to go to the Paris Club.

The total debt of the Republic of Yemen is just below US\$ 9 billion, and 60% of it is owed to the former Soviet Union (inherited by the Russian Federation). The total arrears in delinquent debt is around US\$5 billion, of which 75% is owed to the Russians. But the Russians are not part of the Paris Club, and the majority of the other debt can be negotiated by Yemen bilaterally.

Again, why go to the Paris Club?

The Paris Club is a mechanism to give creditors and their representatives control over the debtor's revenue of foreign exchange. The program also limits the debtor country's ability to borrow or engage in new contractual arrangements in foreign exchange, outside the terms set in the Paris Club deal.

The Paris Club is a forum for countries which have very large accumulations of debt/arrears. Yemen does not fit that scenario, nor is it delinquent in the resource sense. It only needs better management of its resources.

That is it - better management. This is the thing to be tackled.

The reform program, which is about a year and a half old, is trying to correct price distortions by addressing issues like subsidies and factor costs (e.g., cost of capital by raising interest rates, and cost of foreign exchange). These are all fine and good, but the mechanism and structure to implement this reform is good management.

The people in authority in Sanaa today are neither qualified nor clean enough to implement the program. Therefore, the first step in the Yemeni reform package should really have been to put in place better management possibilities by changing at least some of the officials, who are notoriously known for their corruption and inefficiency.

Let us look at the basic facts of the Yemeni economy.

We have already discussed the debt dimension. It is important to add here that the annual debt service burden is in the neighborhood of \$500 million. This is the hangover of the economy.

Merchandise imports have been stable, so far around \$1.8 billion a year. But with the opening up of the country - another dimension of the reform program - this amount is expected to quickly hit the two billion dollar mark, and by the end of 1997, it should range around \$2.5 billion. But this is comfortably off-set by the merchandise exports, which leave behind a surplus of around \$300 million every year. The surplus will persist, given that Yemen's oil exports will grow over the next year as the Jannah and East Shabwah fields start production. The total oil output is expected to rise from its current level of some 370,000 bpd to almost 450,000 bpd by end of 1997.

Reduction of the government budget has been hard to do, in spite of solemn promises. Government expenditures have risen from YR 87.1 billion in 1994, to YR 124.1 billion in 1995, to over YR 200 billion this year. The budgeted amount for this year is YR 181.4 billion. Over 90% of this expenditure goes to consumption, mainly in the form of wages to the bureaucracy and army.

Inflation has been successfully brought down. This is mainly through a combination of Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) policies, which in the short term brought inflation down, but also brought the economy to a halt. These policies include low ceilings on credit, liberalizing interest rates, raising the reserve requirements of commercial banks, direct CBY borrowing through treasury bills (so far around YR 30 billion is borrowed), etc. Thus, very temporarily, the inflation rate has fallen from around 100% last year to about 70% now.

Achieving growth, rather than fighting inflation should have been the first priority. But growth works in favor of the large segment of the population, which although large, has no real influence on policy decisions. On the other hand, policies fighting inflation serve people with large capital inflows, who have a direct impact on policy decisions. In short, the IMF-sponsored policies serve the rich in society. This is doubly proven in the mediocre allocations for the social safety net envisaged in the program.

Thus, this program has negatively affected the growth possibility of the economy. The 2.5% growth rate for 1996 targeted by the reform package, very low by standards of countries with a similar per capita GDP, has proven unattainable. Hence, the pressure for interest rates to be lowered over the next few weeks, will increase.

The last several months have witnessed an endless flow of Saudi manufactured food products and other goods, as an example. Saudi manufacturing is heavily subsidized, as everyone knows. So, the

Yemeni manufacturers are facing a bad deal. They have constantly complained that there was no fair competition.

This is especially problematic as the Yemeni manufacturers are mainly people from Taiz, and the agents importing the Saudi products are sheikhs, military officers and other influential people from the northern tribes. In other words, the whole economic reform program is used as a pretext to shift the business center from the Taiz people, who have earned it - by and large - to the northern tribal leaders, who are using their influence on the state to control the business.

Let me add an additional dimension to the reform package. The ruthless drive to fight inflation did achieve visible results, although in my opinion, the gains are very temporary. The suffering in the quality and standard of living has been enormous. Neither the government officials nor the IMF people listen to the suffering of the poor in Yemen. This is a recipe for trouble, to say the least.

The World Bank has put together a \$23 million package for public works projects. The idea is to provide quick employment for low-skill people all over the country. This has proven a non-starter. There is a similar amount for social services. Again, there is limited impact.

The problem is not with the amount being allocated or whether it will work. The problem is with the orientation to simply fight inflation, even at the expense of no growth, or even worse, negative growth. In short, the end result of this policy has been a recession or stagnation.

Over the last several months, there hardly has been any new projects initiated by the private sector or government. Even the construction boom in the southern cities, notably Aden and Mukalla, has slowed down to almost a halt. Whatever little new investment exists is done by oil companies in a limited way, and with little leakage or ripple effect.

The growth in fixed gross investment in 1995 was negative and in 1996 it hovers around 1%.

It is time to conclude. In my opinion, economic reforms are necessary in Yemen. They are needed to correct price/cost distortion, liberate and privatize the economy, and simplify government procedures. But to do that, the country really needs reliable and clean technocrats. We also need people who will apply the law, and will not bend it to please bad rulers.

By: Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Ranking Professor of Economics,  
Sanaa University.

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## The Meaning and Role of NGOs

It is very clear in my mind that our political leadership is totally unaware of the true meaning of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and what their role is. Therefore, I will start this article with definitions, and then proceed to explain what I think is the purpose and role of NGOs.

NGOs is an umbrella name used to refer to a plethora of associations, societies, charities, guilds, syndicates, unions, and various forms of voluntary grass-roots level effort. These are, by definition, efforts outside the domain of government - hence the name NON-Governmental organizations. As such, governments and rulers are supposed to stay clear from them.

The main purpose of NGOs is two fold.

At the political level, and within the context of a democratic system, NGOs are a vehicle to expand the participation base in public life. For those individuals and groups who are not part of the official structure of government, their views and feelings, find expression through them. They are thus part of the checks and balances of power.

At the development level, NGOs

complement the role of the state. They offer a forum to mobilize the capacities, abilities, and resources of those individuals and groups who are not directly associated with government. They can also cater to specific regions or groups such as a profession or a segment of society.

Having thus explained what NGOs are, let us see how the rulers of Yemen have behaved. There has been a cruel drive to co-opt all NGOs and make them pale shadows mimicking those in power. Not only that, but when some NGOs have resisted the encroachment and have successfully served their constituency, the authorities have openly crushed them. The Hadharem Welfare Association is a vivid example.

In the recent weeks, many NGOs held their congresses and general elections - to their peril. The rulers have openly used the state machinery to impose their will. The physicians were among the early ones to lose out. Then came the students. Then came the farmers. Then came the lawyers. Then came the journalists. It is an endless list.

Basically, NGOs are NON-

governmental. Officials should stay out. But not in Yemen.

Let me use the example of the recent journalists' congress. The Ministry of Information, and all the official media organs of the state (like Al-Thawrah Corporation, the 26th September and Military Morale-Building Institutions - which are media-oriented) have engaged in a ruthless war to beef up their list of members. They brought the drivers and messengers, they brought the clerks and assistants, they even brought some cooks and barbers to the congress of journalists. Every one of them had a card indicating he was a journalist. Believe it or not, some of them were half-literate. The mission - to take over the journalists' syndicate.

Big deal. They can have it. The rulers can have all the charities, associations, societies, guilds, syndicates, unions, etc. But I suggest a change in the name. They are **Governmental Organizations (GOs)**.

By: Ali Saeed Al-Saqqaf,  
Journalist,  
Al-Wahdawi newspaper.

# Dr. Al-Jezairy: "We focus on the development of qualified medical personnel in Yemen."

Dr. Hussein Al-Jezairy, Regional Director of the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean Area, is a general surgeon. A Saudi national, he rose in Saudi hierarchy to become Minister of Health. Then he took over as the regional director with WHO. Last week, he visited Sanaa for official talks with the health authorities. Ismail Al-Ghabry, Yemen Times Sanaa Bureau Chief, talked to him and filed the following interview:

**Q: What brings you to Sanaa?**

**A:** I am here to follow up on some of the cooperation projects we are executing in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. This is a routine visit with the purpose of up-dating ourselves on the progress of work here in Yemen.

**Q: What kind of projects are you referring to?**

**A:** There are different kinds of projects. From the start, let me say that we work with the Ministry of Health as partners. But, let me specify some of the projects in which we work together. With our support, the Ministry of Health has developed a plan to develop the country's health projects for the balance of this decade. This is an important blueprint which was evolved by the Yemeni side. We are also heavily involved in raising health awareness among

the general public, though the impact, so far, is very limited. In any case, we will continue with health education.

But the sector in which we are especially interested is personnel development. It will take several decades before Yemen will have an adequate number of qualified personnel in medical services. This is also a very costly process. So the suggestion was that we should train them in Yemen. We bring the experts and trainers from outside. This way, the cost will be much less.

We will also train a bigger number of people and at the same time you make use the diseases in Yemen as study points.

We are now involved, therefore, in setting up and operating an educational facility that will lead to diplomas in various fields of specialization.

In short, we try to cover those areas which nobody else does, and which the country needs.

**Q: How far have you come in the educational institution project?**

**A:** Well, you know we have participated in evolving the idea. After lengthy discussions, we have agreed on the format for a medical higher education institute or board in Yemen. Now, we are working on curriculum development. We have also showed that external examinations will be required to evaluate the trainees. We expect this institute to be

fully operational very shortly.

**Q: Is the College of Medicine at Sanaa or Aden Universities involved with this project?**

**A:** We work through the Ministry of Health. Although this is an independent effort, I am sure that some of the experts and doctors at the two universities will be involved.

**Q: What kind of cost are we talking about?**

**A:** The project is expected to cost around \$300,000. Training the

same number of people abroad for one year alone would cost \$1.5 million. So, you can see the difference.

**Q: What is your general assessment of the health situation in Yemen?**

**A:** The most important thing to attend to is the environment in which people live. And this is not something the government can solve alone. Everybody's input is needed, especially the media's.



## Garbage in Yemen

"Sana'a would be beautiful if it were clean!"

I have heard that comment, not once, but many times. A lot of people complain about the garbage, and I am one of them. I think that what must be done is to clean all the garbage in and outside of Sana'a.

The first problem that we will face if garbage situation persists is more sicknesses, and possibly an epidemic. A lot of diseases come from garbage. They mostly affect children, because they are the ones who play the whole time on the streets.

The second problem is that garbage doesn't look or smell

nice. Sana'a is full of garbage; every nice place you would like to go to for a picnic, you will smell and see garbage. You will get disgusted and never bother to repeat the picnic.

Then there are the aesthetic and environmental considerations. Piles of garbage just don't fit with good life.

These problems could be easily solved, if we had the will. Sana'a already has garbage collectors who work hard. I am sure that these garbage collectors are doing their best, but that is just not enough. Maybe we should get a bigger team of garbage collectors so the job could be easier

and faster.

One major problem that garbage collectors face is that when they clean an area one day, the people throw their garbage the next day in the same area that the collectors had cleaned. People also throw their garbage at their doorstep thinking that garbage collectors will pick it up immediately. It is true that the garbage will be picked up eventually, but it often lies on the streets for a long time.

We should stop people from throwing garbage on the streets. We could do that in several ways. First, put signs that show that garbage should not be thrown, just about anywhere. Another way is to put garbage trash cans, small and large ones, everywhere. If that was available, then no one would throw garbage on the streets.

If both these ways didn't work with people, then the policeman should catch anyone who is throwing garbage and wither make him pay a large fine or put him in jail. No one would like to go to jail or to pay a large fine for just throwing a small amount of garbage.

These are some possible ways of stopping people from ruining Sana'a nature. I am sure that if these things would work, then Sana'a would be a beautiful and dean capital, and all of Yemen would be a wonderful country. I hope that these ways of convincing people to not throw garbage will work.

**By:**  
Huda Abdullah Al-Shaba,  
Student at:  
Sanaa International School.

## VACANCY NOTICE

An organization is inviting applications for the following posts to work in a refugee camp in Abyan Governorate.

### 1. Health Coordinator

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful candidate shall be responsible for the health sector in the camp which includes the provision of primary health care, basic and curative health services and referrals for approximately 10,000 refugees living in the camp. He/She shall account for the equipment, drugs and supplies in the health clinic, close monitoring of the distribution of drugs to the refugee patients in the camp with the help of the camp doctors and health staff. He/She shall write comprehensive, monthly reports on all aspects of the health sector activities and general health situation within the camp. He/She shall co-ordinate with local hospitals in Abyan and Aden Governorate to ensure provision of secondary and tertiary level care not available in the camp, an liaison with different services in Sana'a as necessary. He/She shall be responsible for ensuring a proper patient registration system, maintaining accurate health records and statistical data, the supervision of all the health staff in the camp and co-ordinate any administrative and operational matters with the organization Camp Co-ordinator and organization Director.

#### Qualifications and Experience:

A suitable academic qualification in the field of health care management of related field are required. He/She should also have a minimum of 3 years experience in the field knowledge of written and spoken English and Arabic is essential.

### 2- Camp Coordinator

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

He will be responsible, but not limited to, for organizing and running of a refugee camp that accommodates approximately 10,000 or so of refugees of various nationalities, mainly Somalis and some Ethiopians. He/She personally supervise and monitor the implementation of the rules and regulations as aid down by the organization in relation to the living conditions and general welfare to the refugees, including the provision and distribution of food, water, kerosene, and non-food items to the refugees as well as maintenance of all camp structure including refugee shelters; sanitation facilities, and distribution points, education and health facilities. He shall keep close track of the refugees daily activities and where about, an report weekly to the organization Director. He will perform other duties as required.

#### Qualifications Required

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# Situation and Trends of Agricultural Sector

**Dr. Mutaheer Al Abassi,**  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics,  
Sana'a University.

Since 1990, Yemen has experienced a number of changes that have affected the performance of the economy.

First, in May 1990, the two parts of the country reunited and that required merging two different and underdeveloped economies;

Second, in August 1990, the Gulf Crisis started which resulted in the return of more than 800,000 expatriates who used to work in the Gulf States, and in the suspension or termination of aid and loan from these countries;

Third, the collapse of the Soviet Union led to the shut off of an important source of aid and loans and made the country face a huge amount of debt to Russia;

Finally during the period May-July 1994, the country experienced internal war to save the unification which added a heavy cost to the economy.

All those changes hampered the ability of the Yemeni economy to achieve stability and growth. On the other hand, the consequences of such changes have led the government to adopt the Structural Adjustment Program which has been implemented since March 1995. It is expected that the consequences of structural adjustment will foster economic growth, but it will have a variable impact on the various sectors of the economy. The agricultural sector will be greatly affected by the fiscal and monetary measures.

Agriculture is seen as the key factor affecting the economics and social life of Yemeni people. It is the largest sector of the economy as it employs roughly half of the resident labor force and accounts for about 18% of the Gross Domestic Product. The arable land under cultivation is estimated to be 1.06 million hectares in 1995, representing less than 2% of the total area of the country.

Agriculture faces two main challenges: water scarcity and population growth.

Water availability is the main factor that deter-

mines the utilization of arable land in Yemen. The rain-fed land is estimated to account for nearly 75% of the total arable land, while the rest is irrigated land. Rainfall varies between 50 -100 mm in the Eastern provinces to more than 800 mm in the central and southern highlands. However, most of the country receives less than 200 mm of annual precipitation.

The current irrigation methods are heavily contributing to water scarcities in different regions. That is because more ground water is being withdrawn from aquifers than is recharged naturally. The continuous pumping of groundwater is leading to disastrous effects on agriculture in the arid and semi-arid areas of the country.

Efficient water use and sustainable water management are challenges to Yemen in the coming years. Therefore, policy decisions and action programs should take place on different levels, and more work has to be done with farmers and communities to solve problems on production and resource management.

The **population** of Yemen has changed drastically over the last five years. According to the 1994 census, Yemen is currently inhabited by around 16 million people. Based on the continued high fertility rate (about 7.7 children per woman), the population will continue to increase, and will be doubled by the year 2013 (base year 1994). The age group 0-14 years represents more than half of the population. The age structure of the population will not substantially change during the next ten years. This means the burden to educate, employ, and feed this age group will be a major challenge to our society.

The majority of the population still resides in rural areas, and depends heavily on agricultural activities. In 1994, rural residents were estimated to be 77% of the total population. Urban residents, which constitute 23% of the population, are expected to grow faster than the rural population. This is due to depletion of resources in rural areas, expectations of better paid jobs outside the agricultural sector and availability of services in the cities. The rural areas are losing productive labor

force which would be capable of maintaining the agricultural land. Currently, most of the work in agriculture is undertaken by women, children, and the aged.

The rapid population growth coupled with stagnant growth of food production leads to rapid increase in demand for imported food. Therefore, responsibility of families and the government for health, education, training and employment for new generations have to increase in order to slow down population growth and subsequently reduce the pressure on the limited resources.

The **Food gap** between local production and consumption is the most visible challenge to Yemeni society. The agriculture sector currently supplies the country's population with most of its needs of vegetables and fruits, but supplies only half of the domestic demand for cereals. Thus food and beverage imports are growing sharply and account for nearly one third of total imports.

Over the last two decades, agricultural production has been subject to great fluctuations and disturbances which resulted in relative deterioration of the share of the agriculture sector in the overall domestic output. There are indications that that trend will continue to persist in the years ahead due to low feasibility of agricultural activities, except in qat and vegetable production.

Efficiency of agriculture production is markedly constrained by water supply, fragmented land holdings, inadequate supporting infrastructure, and ineffective macroeconomics policies. Another major problem facing the agriculture sector is the rapid growing of qat trees, which consume at least 25% of the irrigated areas. Conditions for production of qat are favorable and can lead to expansion of its growing areas.

Agricultural development is the major factor that will influence the nation development process on the one hand, and has a significant impact on the environmental conditions of the country on the other hand. Therefore, the country is in need for building a sound agricultural system with the following broad objectives:

- Establish agricultural promotion programs that take into account the limited natural resources (i.e. water) and the environmental, economic and social conditions of the country:
- Set priorities for rain-fed farming,
- Develop production system that contain farmers perception of constraints and their initiation for sustainable solutions.
- Mobilize community participation by involving farmers in planning and implementation of development programs.
- Encourage private sector to play a major role in managing agricultural activities.
- Mobilize existing public resources for tasks and services required from the government (infrastructure, legislation, regulation and its monitoring) linked with a consistent financial system.

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## Arabic Loanwords in Hindi

The parties involved in the transaction of lending and borrowing words in this article are Arabic and Hindi. The Arabic language needs no introduction here, but the language called Hindi does.

Hindi is one of the several major languages of India. The number of its native speakers runs into millions spread over a large area in the northern part of India. In fact, Hindi is the official language of the Republic of India. It seems to be well set on its way to becoming the lingua franca of India in the near future. Indeed, some claim that it already is the lingua franca of India. Whatever the case, the point here is that it is, in India, the name of a language, and not the name of a nationality as it is in modern spoken and written Arabic.

The number of Arabic loanwords to Hindi is considerably large and they are not confined to particular semantic fields, neither are they specific to any aspect of cultural life. And they have been so well assimilated in the blood stream of Hindi as to become unrecognizable except to those who make it their business to trace them and bring them to light for what they are. Of course, they have suffered changes of form and meaning, and quite often these changes are so radical that they strain our sense of what is reasonable and plausible to the breaking point. But if we persist, we are rewarded with exciting discoveries concerning the intimate relationship between Arabic and Hindi spread over several centuries.

In this article, however, my aim is really very modest. I would like to take one word in particular and show what meaning change has affected it in its travel from Arabic to Hindi. The word in question is **dam** (= Arabic). But, of course, we will find it useful to take note, in passing, of some other Arabic words in Hindi.

**Dam** (= Arabic دم) is a noun. It corresponds in meaning to the English word 'blood', also a noun. In Hindi too there is a word **dam**; it is a noun, and it is quite similar in sound to the Arabic word **dam**. However, its meaning in Hindi is quite different from its meaning in Arabic; it means in Hindi 'breath' (= Arabic) in most contexts. For example, consider the following non-finite verb phrases of Hindi:

(i) Hindi **dam lenaa** (= Arabic تنفّس) corresponding to English 'to take breath';

(ii) Hindi, **dam rokanaa** or Hindi, **dam saadhanaa** (= Arabic أمسك أنفاسك) corresponding to the English 'to hold one's breath';

(iv) Hindi **dam chhoranaa** (= Arabic زفير إطلاق التنفس) corresponding to English 'to release breath, to let breath out';

(v) Hindi **dam maavanaa** (= Arabic لهت) corresponding to English 'to pant, to breathe in and out rapidly';

(vi) Hindi **dam toranaa** (= Arabic تنفس النفس الأخير) corresponding to English 'to breathe one's last, to die'.

At this point of our discussion, it is well to remember that complete and total synonymy between expressions even within one and the same language are rather hard to find. Much more difficult - indeed, some would say impossible - is to find synonymy between expressions across different languages. Therefore, translation equivalents given above for Hindi, Arabic and English should be considered rough approximations rather than exact, one-one mappings of meanings across three languages.

For example, we have noted earlier that Hindi **dam maaranaa** corresponds to English 'to pant' and Arabic (لهت). But it has another meaning i.e. 'inhaling smoke while puffing at a pipe or cigarette.'

Everybody familiar with the Hindi film 'Hare Krishna, Hare Ram' will recall its hit song 'dam maaro' dam, mit jaaye gam', etc. meaning 'Puff, puff away, sorrow will go away', etc. Besides, in certain contexts Hindi **dam** has developed the sense of 'strength'.

However, in most contexts Hindi **dam** is used in the sense of English 'breath' and Arabic (نفس). There are some more words in Hindi based on **dam**. For example, there is the word **bedam** consisting of the prefix **be-** 'without' and the stem '**dam**' 'breath', that is 'without breath or breathless', as one gets breathless after any kind of hard work, like hard running. Incidentally, the prefix **be-** in Hindi corresponds to prefix **bi-** of Persian. Strangely enough, Persian prefix **bi-** means without, but Arabic preposition **bi-** means 'with!' compare Hindi **besham** with Persian **bisham** and Hindi **beraham** with Persian **biraham** 'meaning 'pitiless'.

Returning to the Hindi **dam**, we note the adverb

**ekdam** made up of two stems **ek** and **dam** meaning literally 'one breath'. However, it is used in the sense of 'completely, entirely, absolutely': for example, **ekdam ghalat** 'completely wrong'; **ekdam sahih** 'completely right, correct'. Now note here that **ghalat** and **sahih** are both Arabic words with exactly the same meaning and pronunciation.

Going back to **ekdam**, we note it is an intensifier; it intensifies the meaning of the word it co-occurs with. In this sense it appears to be similar in meaning to Arabic **bilkul** (= Arabic بالكل), which has the same meaning and pronunciation in both languages. But, of course, Hindi speakers are not aware of its hierarchical grammatical structure consisting of the preposition **bi-** (= Arabic ب) and **alkul** (= Arabic الكل), which in its turn is built from the definite article **al** (= Arabic ال) and **kul** (= Arabic كل). They use it as an unanalysable single word. In this respect, it is similar to another word in Hindi, namely, **banispat**, which corresponds in meaning to the English prepositional phrase 'in comparison with', and also to Arabic **balnisbat** (النسبة).

This Arabic construction is borrowed in Hindi, just like **bilkul**, as an analyzable whole without any change in the meaning of construction, but with of course, a slight modification of its sound shape in the replacement of the second **b** to **p**.

Let us return to the story of the Hindi **dam** and stay with it for a while. In Hindi there is a word **damaa** with its variant **dammaa**; it corresponds to English 'asthma' and to Arabic (ضيق التنفس). It is the name of a disease of course, and the disease is brought about by the inflammation of the mucous membrane inside the bronchial tubes leading to the lungs. This disease affects the respiratory system making normal breathing difficult and painful. Here again we see that the word **dam(m)aa** which carries the prototypical meaning of '**dam**' in Hindi, which is 'breath'.

By now we have said enough about Hindi **dam** to show that this word is firmly integrated into Hindi and carries a heavy semantic load. The point of it all is that the Hindi **dam** is an Arabic loanword (دم) means 'blood'; Hindi **dam**, ultimately, borrowed from Arabic, has come to mean 'breath' corresponding to Arabic (نفس).

Again consider the phrase **aakhiri dam**, which means the 'last breath' in Hindi. The first word in this phrase is without the least doubt a loanword from Arabic; it is a modified form of Arabic (أخير). It again shows the tendency of **dam** to collocate most frequently with words of Arabo-Persian origin.

There is a still another word **hamdam** in Hindi; it consists of two parts **ham** corresponding to English **co-** (as in **cooperate** 'work together, jointly'), and **dam** 'breath'; the literal meaning of **hamdam** is 'breathing together', leading to its meaning today of 'a very close, intimate friend'.

Indeed, in Persian too **hamdam** has the same meaning. 'a very close, intimate friend'. In Persian **hamdam** and **dost** meaning 'friend' are synonyms! Incidentally this example goes to show that even in Persian **dam** has the sense of 'breath'. And we are right on the mark.

Consider the following two phrases in Persian:

- (i) دم آخر را کشید;  
(ii) دم بد نزن.

The first phrase in modern Persian corresponds in meaning to the English phrase to draw the last breath, to die; the second phrase corresponds in meaning to the English phrase 'to speak ill of somebody'. Literally, however, the second phrase is 'to breathe ill of somebody'. We have cited enough examples from Persian to show that even in Persian, **dam** has the sense of 'breath'. Hindi thus is not alone in changing the meaning of Arabic (دم) into 'breath'. Indeed, these examples are persuasive enough for us to modify, slightly, our initial hypothesis that Hindi **dam** meaning 'breath' is a borrowing from Arabic (دم) with its meaning changed in Hindi itself. Now we can rephrase our hypothesis as follows: Hindi **dam** meaning 'breath' is a loanword ultimately, from Arabic, but through the mediation of Persian in which language Arabic (= دم) suffered the change in meaning to 'breath'.

It is quite possible that readers of this linguistic report on the Hindi word **dam** might hesitate to accept that Hindi **dam** is a word borrowed from Arabic. They might argue that Hindi **dam** is a native word of Indian origin and 'breath' is its aboriginal meaning. Some might claim that Arabic **dam** and Hindi **dam** are simply accidental homophones; that is to say, they are two different words whose sound shapes happen, accidentally, to be identical or similar.

But then the onus of proving the truth of their claim lies with them. We for one will continue to hold that Hindi **dam** is an Arabic loanword, only its meaning has changed - until proved wrong. That is, until it is conclusively proved that Hindi **dam** is a native word inherited from the earlier stages of Hindi with its meaning held intact without any change, we will continue to maintain that our hypothesis is valid.

We can even do something more; we can advance an argument or two in support of our claim that 'dam' in Hindi is a loan word. Here is one. We have said above that the Hindi word **bedam** consists of two parts: the negative prefix **be-** 'without' and the stem '**dam**' 'breath', that is, 'breathless' now this privative suffix **be-** occurs with a large number of words in Hindi most of which are proven loanwords. To cite only a few examples here: **be-naziir** 'without parallel' (You know a famous person with that name, don't you?), **be-raham** 'without pity', **be-waquuf** 'without any understanding', **be-akl** 'without intelligence', and so on. We have noted earlier the correspondence between Hindi prefix **be-** and Persian prefix **bi-**; we can go one step further and claim that Hindi **be-** is a borrowing from Persian **bi-**. It will have been noticed that this prefix Hindi co-occurs with words which are admittedly loanwords.

The word **bedam** in Hindi consists of the prefix **be-** and stem '**dam**' meaning 'without breath or breathless' in accordance with the established pattern of loanwords in Hindi.

As for the change of meaning of **dam** from its passage from Arabic to Hindi, it is no more startling than the change of meaning of hundreds of Arabic loanwords in Hindi. Let us take an example or two of such cases.

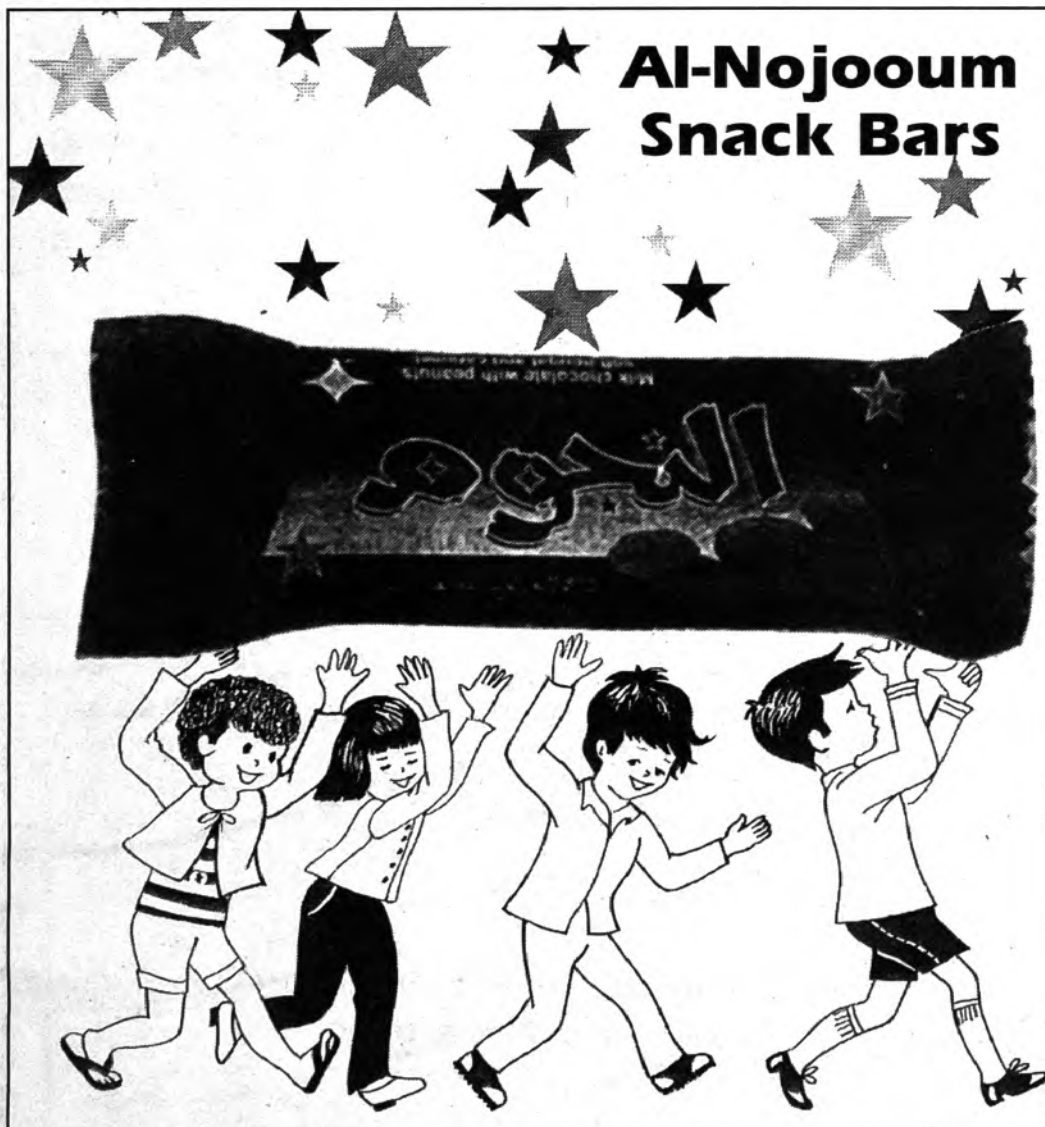
The most common word in Hindi that correspond to the English 'sky' is **asamaan**. In Arabic the corresponding word is **samaa** (= Arabic السماء), pronounced as-samaa. In our view, the Hindi **asamaan** is an Arabic loanword. It is based on the Arabic (سماء). The excrement [-n] in Hindi is not a unique event in the history of languages. What is fascinating is the change of meaning that has affected Arabic **samaa** without the definite article added to it. In Hindi, **Samaa**, borrowed from Arabic, has acquired the sense of 'scenery, a scenic view, landscape, panorama'.

That is, one and the same Arabic word, borrowed in two forms, with and without the definite article, that is, as-samaa' and **samaa** has developed two senses. Incidentally, here is one more example of the Persian the word corresponding to English 'sky' is **asamaan**.

We have discussed the example of **samaa** at some length to show that the sense change of **dam** is not a unique event. It most certainly is not a strange or inexplicable happening. Even more dramatic is the change in the meaning of the Arabic word **musammayât** (= Arabic مسميات) borrowed into Hindi. In Arabic it is, I understand the plural form of **musamma** (=Arabic مسمى) meaning 'named, called by name of'; in Hindi, however, it developed the sense of 'window'!

But it should be borne in mind that listing loanwords from Arabic into Hindi is one thing, stating the changes in meaning of these words is quite another, and still another, and harder by all means, is explaining these changes in terms of linguistic, social, cultural forces and factors that operate constantly on words. That is a task that I hope to undertake in another article some time later.

K. M Tiwary  
Department of English,  
Taiz University, Taiz.



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عبدالرحمن احمد الأديمي ، أحمد الكهالي ، أحمد العرشي

## Deans of Arab Colleges of Medicine Decide to Arabize Curricula

The deans of colleges of medicine in universities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen agreed among themselves, following a week-long meeting in Amman, Jordan earlier this month, to push ahead with Arabization of curricula and school material. The deans also decided to use the Arabic language as the medium of instruction.

As a result of this decision, Arab universities will embark on major translation efforts of text-books and reference material in medicine. "We have also agreed to boost our allocations for research and lab experiments," explained Dr. Hussain Al-Kaff, Dean of the College of Medicine at Aden University, who represented Yemen in the meeting. The educators also drafted schemes to exchange material and teaching staff. They also proposed to initiate a joint file on the internet.

Finally, they agreed to set up an association of the deans of Arab Colleges of Medicine to be based at the University of Amman, Jordan.

The board of directors includes:

Dr. Mahmood Abu Khalaf, Dean, College of Medicine, Jordan University, Amman, Jordan - Chairman;

Dr. Ibrahim Bani Hani, Dean, College of Medicine, Science and Technology University, Irbid, Jordan - Secretary-General;

Dr. Hussain Al-Kaff, Dean, College of Medicine, Aden University, Aden, Yemen - Board Member;

Dr. Abdullah Al-Furaj, Dean, College of Medicine, King Saud University, Riyadh; Saudi Arabia - Board Member;

Dr. Hamed Shatlah, Dean, College of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt - Board Member;

Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Rawi, Dean, College of Medicine, Baghdad University, Baghdad, Iraq - Board Member;

Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed, Dean, College of Medicine, Khartoum University, Khartoum, Sudan - Board member.

## Has Netanyahu Bitten More than He Can Chew?

It is becoming increasingly clear that Israel's new Prime Minister is trying to find ways to back-track of many of the hard-line promises he had made during elections. The split with such hawks as Sharon and others is an embodiment of this effort.

Yet, unfortunately for Netanyahu, some of the anti-peace positions he had taken are too clear. His famous four NOs (No to withdrawal from the Golan Heights, No to dismantling/stopping Jewish settlements, No to Sharing of Jerusalem, No to Palestinian State) are clear. Back-tracking on them will be difficult.

At the same time, the Arab Summit just concluded in Cairo has put him on the spot. The Arab leaders have re-affirmed commitment to the peace process based on UN resolutions and as negotiated and concluded in the various international agreements sponsored by the US and the Russian Federation.

To add to Netanyahu's anguish, his extremist positions have helped revive Arab solidarity. After a six-year interruption, an Arab summit was held, and some of the psychological and real differences among Arab leaders have been healed and bridged.

The Arab leaders also agreed to focus on ways to work together to shore-up the peace process and how to counter-act Netanyahu's anti-peace efforts.

But the more pressing promises of the new Israeli prime minister is not really the Arabs. It is the extremist Israelis. He is finding it impossible to please the religious groups in Israel, and that fight is the one with which Netanyahu plans to deal with first.

The US and other promoters of the peace process, while dismayed with the twist of events in Israel, are asking the Arabs to show patience and flexibility.

## Reviving Traditional Herbal Medicine in the UAE

The Zayed Complex for Herbal Research and Traditional Medicine is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year, according to a Ministry of Health official in Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Hassan Alkeem, the Ministry's Assistant Under Secretary for Administration and Finance, said the complex, near Al Mafraq Hospital in Abu Dhabi, will operate fully once all equipment is installed and staff appointed. The complex will provide at least a hundred job opportunities for experts in herbal medicine. Of these, 57 will be in technical occupations, 21 will be in administra-

tion and 20 will be involved with services. The Ministry has been reviewing job applications and has so far appointed 98 people to various jobs, including that of the Director General, said Khaled Abdullah, Head of the Ministry's Health Projects and Follow-up Section. "Priority will be given to UAE nationals and nationals of Arab countries," he said. Announcements for the technical vacancies were made in some international newspapers and magazines, to attract the best people. Nominations were being made for the top positions, which would go to researchers and pro-

fessors.

"We have made personal contacts with a number of herbal medicine specialists in the United States, China, India and Pakistan for the purpose," Abdullah said. Moreover, some employees from the Abu Dhabi Center for Herbal Medicine have been transferred to the new complex. "These people are qualified to handle the machines because they have acquired good experience in their three years at the old center." Herbal medicine and traditional Arab medicine was advanced a lot in the past by Arab scholars.

## Strained Relations between Turkey and the Arabs

Relations between Turkey and its Arab neighbors have continued their downward tumble. Symptoms of this have been visible in the statement issued by the Arab Summit just concluded in Cairo. These were preceded by warnings and threats from Turkey's Foreign Minister.

Recently, Turkey has been at loggerheads with Syria regarding a number of issues ranging from water rights, to electronic jamming of television transmissions, competing claims over Al-Iskendron region (which is claimed by Syria, but under Turkish rule), counter-claims of support for irredentist movements, etc. Similar problems exist with Iraq, although the focus here is how to deal with the Kurdish populations, which make up a substantial minority in each of them, in addition to Iran, and a much smaller number in Syria.

Turkey had also disturbed many Arab countries including Egypt and Saudi Arabia because of the military pact it signed with Israel. "Military alliances do not help peace and stability in the region," said Mr. Amre Moussa, Egypt's Foreign Minister commenting on the pact.

Turkey and the Arabs share a long history. Although there are many positive aspects to this association, both sides mostly remember the bitter and negative aspects. This has resulted in an estrangement of Turkey in the region.

The efforts of Turkey to perceive itself as a European nation has also added to this estrangement in the Middle East region. The continued rebuff of Turkey by the Europeans is beginning to force the Turks into considerable soul-searching in terms of its regional role.

## CONGRATULATIONS

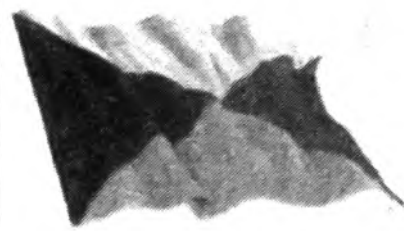
Dr. Han Jansen from the Joint Oil Clinic announced his conversion to Islam. We take this occasion to congratulate him and welcome him to Islam.

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# CHILD MALNUTRITION : An Old Terror Returns to Haunt Yemen



Young tribal boy scavenging for food in garbage bins

Dismal living conditions for families and children



Malnutrition is something only the old folks of Yemen remember. The younger generations have been spared the grief, so far. Now, malnutrition has returned to Yemen, and in a fierce way. But, let us start with definitions. What is malnutrition? The term is used to refer to a

number of diseases, each with a specific cause related to one or more nutrients (for example, protein, iodine or calcium) and each characterized by cellular imbalances between the supply of nutrients and energy on the one hand, and the body's demand for them to ensure growth, maintenance, and specific functions, on the other.

Malnutrition kills, maims and disables.

Malnutrition in its many forms persists in virtually all countries of the world in spite of a general improvement in food supplies and health conditions, and the increased availability of educational and social services.

An estimated 174 million under-five children in the developing world are malnourished as indicated by low weight for age, and 230 million are stunted. Malnutrition results in poor physical and cognitive development as well as lower resistance to illness. It is now recognized that 6.6 million out of 12.2 million deaths among children under-five - or 54% of young child mortality in developing countries - is associated with malnutrition. In addition to the human suffering, the loss in human potential translates into social and economic costs that no country can afford.

Over 800 million people still cannot meet basic needs for energy and protein, more than two thousand million people lack essential micronutrients, and hundreds of millions suffer from diseases caused by unsafe food or by unbalanced food intake.

childhood malnutrition include some conventional activities such as the protection and promotion of breast-feeding, appropriate complementary feeding, nutrition education for behavioral change, growth monitoring, micronutrient deficiency control, nutritional support of the sick child, maternal nutrition and health referral. What often distinguishes successful programs, is that communities are involved in identifying the problems and mobilizing action and resources for solving them; a good technical package is not sufficient.

More must be done to ensure good nutritional status of young women before they become mothers and to improve nutrition during pregnancy and lactation. Programs will require innovative approaches to reach adolescent girls, particularly in countries where their secondary school enrollment is low.

A focus on complementary feeding, combine with continued attention to protection, promotion and support of breast-feeding, will address an important cause of malnutrition. Programs must put special emphasis on the crucial period from birth to 18 months.

Overall malnutrition must no longer be considered without reference to micronutrient status as the two are inextricably linked. Attempting to improve protein-energy status without addressing micronutrient deficiencies will not result in optimal growth and function.

Many of the countries that have hailed to achieve improvements in child malnutrition have been impeded because of emergency situations. More needs to be done to prevent nutritional emergencies and to design safety nets for the most vulnerable groups in cases of emergency.

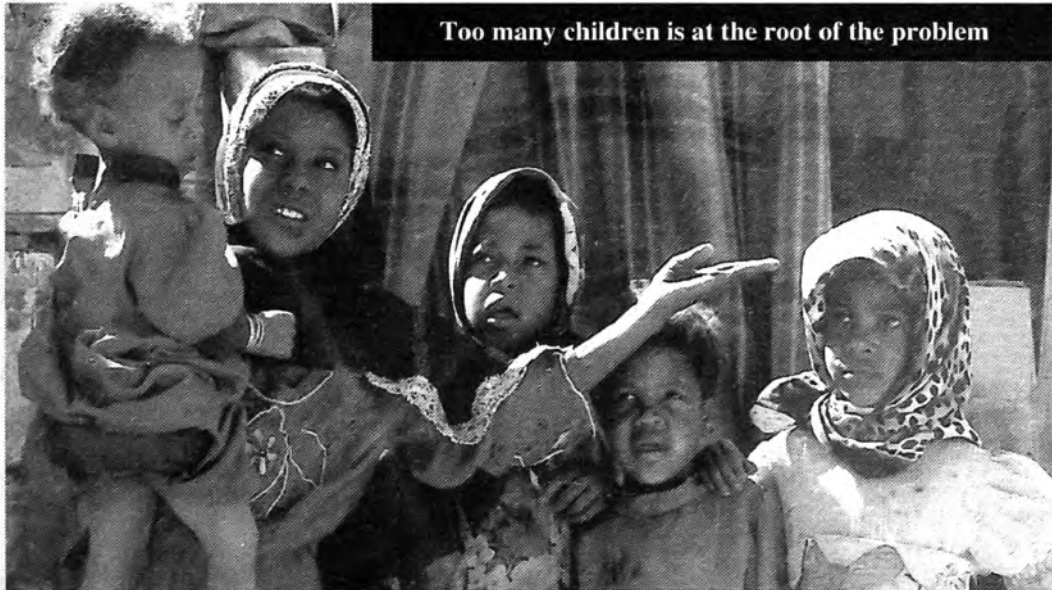
The Republic of Yemen had lived with secondary levels of malnutrition, and today it has a substantial tertiary malnutrition. Many development experts are worried about the implications of inadequate and/or unbalanced food intake by children, notably at an early age. "The rights of children are compromised because they have no

priority. It is a good chance to promote family planning. Well-taken care off fewer children are better than a large family that is unable to care for its children," stated Ms. Samira Bin Daair, a child right activist in Yemen.

The government of Yemen, overwhelmed by other more pressing issues, is unable and even unqualified to attend to this matter. In the long run, the cost of such neglect will be enormous.

Adopted and abridged by:  
Anwar Al-Sayyadi,  
Yemen Times.

Too many children is at the root of the problem



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✓ English language, English Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Arabic and Islamic Studies in Arabic.

✓ Preference will be given to degree holders from British universities.

✓ Applications, along with copies of testimonials and one photograph, to be mailed to:

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Pakistan School,  
P. O. Box No. 19655,  
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In 1990, only 53 developing countries had reliable national data on the prevalence of underweight in young children; by 1995, 97 countries had such data, and 95 countries also had data on stunting and wasting.

It is estimated that more than half of the young children in south Asia suffer from protein-energy malnutrition, which is about five times the prevalence in the Western hemisphere, at least three times the prevalence in the Middle East and more than twice that of east Asia. Estimates for sub-Saharan Africa indicate that the prevalence is approximately 30%.

In some regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia, stagnation of nutritional improvement combined with a rapid rise in population has resulted in an actual increase in the total number of malnourished children. Currently, over two-thirds of the world's malnourished children live in Asia (especially south Asia), followed by Africa and Latin America.

At the end of January 1996, 98 countries had national plans of action for nutrition and 41 countries had one under preparation, in keeping with their commitment made at the International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in December 1992.

While specific activities may vary, most programs that address

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**AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 20-6-1996 (Yemeni Socialist Party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Usama Bin Laden Confesses to Involvement in Yemeni Terrorist Acts
- 2) Aden security Chief Threatens Human Rights Lawyer Badr Ba-Suneid
- 3) The People of Hadhramaut Demand to Hold Prosecutor Al-Dhourani to Account for Slander of Hadhrami Women.

**Article Summary:**

**Al-Shoura Cannot Be Stopped**

The West Sanaa District Court of Sana'a has judged in favor of Al-Shoura and has authorized the paper for re-issuance. The court decision emphasized that the only way to stop any newspaper is by a court order. This represents a historic decision which confirms the constitutionality of democratic rights, which no authority except the judiciary can decide. The Assistant Secretary General of the Popular Forces Party, whose mouthpiece is the paper, Mr. Tariq al-Shamy stated that the third victory for Al-Shoura in the courts represents an important milestone in the democratic experience and political pluralism in Yemen. He expressed hope that the rulers will learn the lesson that they cannot be above the law. The expectation is that the paper will recommence issuance on this coming Sunday.

**AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 13-6-96 (Yemeni Congregation For Reform)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Recent Floods: 250 Deaths and Extensive Material Damage in Shabwa, Marib, Hadhramaut, Al-Jouf and Abyan Governorates.
- 2) Residents of the Elevated Areas of Aden Complain of Poor Water Supply.
- 3) Deputy Manger, Sana'a Sanitation (Garbage) Project: The Project Suffers from Failure and Paralysis

**Article Summary:**

**The Mukalla Disturbances Fact-Finding Committee Report**

The paper states that the Freedoms and Human Rights Committee of Parliament has called for the postponement of any actions vis a vis the Mukalla Rape case, pending the outcome of the judiciary proceedings on the rape case itself. On the other hand, the government Fact-Finding

# Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

Committee Report was printed in the paper. Highlights of the report on the causes of the protest marches, which eventually led to violence, due to the purported slander of Hadhrami women by the government prosecutor:

- The committee met from 9-11/6/1996.
  - The 7 members attended in full on the first two sessions (AM/PM, 9/6/1996) only. Three members were absent in remaining sessions, except final one where two were absent.
  - The Presiding Judge of the Rape Trial came in the last session only and stated that he did not hear Al-Dhourani make the statements alleged to the committee.
  - The others who testified that they heard the Prosecutor make slanderous statements all came out with different statements than the ones presented to the Committee and to the President (7 witnesses)
  - Al-Dhourani (The Chief Prosecutor in Hadhramaut) swore that he did not make any of the 2 statements that were given to the committee.
- The paper, as well as the committee report seemed to imply that all the witnesses should have agreed on the statements said "in such a small room" as the courtroom. Moreover, the defense lawyers did not appear before the committee, although they were summoned.

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 19-6-96 (Independent)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) IMF Survey: Reduction of Inflation Rate in Yemen to 10% in 1997
- 2) Release of Journalist Fouad Ba-Matraf
- 3) RPG Shell Fired on military Post in Hadhramaut (No Casualties)

**Article Summary:**

**Al-Tajammu'u Banned This Week**

The Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party issued an urgent statement on the banning of issue No. 228 dated 17-6-96 of the newspaper, the party's mouthpiece, Al-Tajammu'u. The statement pointed out that the party had avoided getting into a verbose

battle with the rulers because they had banned the issue of 6th May 1966, due to displeasure of the latter on the headlines used by the paper. The party gives notice that this is in violation of the Constitution and an on the Right of Public opinion and Press Freedom. The paper was subjected to censorship prior to printing. Two articles were objected to (Omar Al-Jawi's "Weekly Diary" and Saeed Awlaqi's "Shaqlaban" column). Both had confirmed to the President which the people had affirmed.

The party insists that there was no violation of the law in the paper's contents, nor were anybody's rights infringed upon by what was in the articles, nor did the paper touch upon anyone who was by law immune to criticism.

The statement urged all public expressions of disapproval of such pre-printing interference with the press by the rulers, by local, as well as international opinion makers and pressure groups. The statement urged all supporters of Yemeni democracy to put an end to such violations of rights, especially the Coordinating Council of the Opposition.

**AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 19-6-96 (Official)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Dr. Abdulwahab Mahmoud (Chairman of the Election Law amendments Committee): "We Requested all the Political Parties to Participate In Drafting Amendments to the Election Law"
- 2) Israel Facing Political Paralysis after Netanyahu Victory
- 3) A Modern Printing Press for the Journalists' Union

**Article Summary:**

**The Yemeni Teacher Is Oppressed, My Son** Abdulla al-Haifi, a regular contributor to the paper, criticizes the harsh treatment that the Yemeni teachers are being subjected to by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance bureaucrats. He cites, as an example, the refusal of these people to complete the processing of the cost of living increment, which had been given to all government

employees (military and civilian). The Prophet Mohammed (Peace of Allah be upon him) said: "The teacher could almost be regarded as a prophet".

**AL-U'UROBA: Sana'a (Weekly), 16-6-96 (Democratic Nasserite Party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Britain Halts Issuing Entry Visas for Yemenis
- 2) Saudis Continue to Support the Remaining Secessionists
- 3) The Loss of 40,000 Blank I.D.'s

**Article Summary:**

**Corruption**

Ahmed Hussein al-Marwany, a prominent national figure and a revolutionary hero criticizes the wide spread corruption in the government and points out its impact on government functions and society. Al-Marwany cited Koranic verses and traditions of the Prophet Mohammed (P), all of which confirm corruption as an evil that eats away at the fabric of society. The end result would be God's wrath on society as a whole for allowing corruption to thrive on such a large scale.

It is noteworthy to point out that many of the old guard revolutionary heroes have recently expressed their concern at the country's deteriorating conditions and have appealed to the President in articles in several newspapers, including official ones that this situation is contrary to the goals and ideals that motivated them to wage a long hard struggle against the Imamate and the traditional power centers of the country.

**26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 13-6-96 (Mouthpiece of the Military):**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President: Hadhramaut is Yemen's Strategic Depth and Its Beating Heart
- 2) Yemen Is Pursuing cancellation of Some of Its Debt and Rescheduling of the Remainder In View of the Success of the Reform Program
- 3) The Council of Ministers:

- Sets Up a Supreme Committee for the Relief of Flood Victims

- Approves Deduction of "Contributions" By Government Staff (Military As Well As Civilian) of One Day's Wages

- Takes Measures for Speedy Infrastructure Repairs

4) New Appointments at the General Tourism Authority at the General Directorate Level and the Heads of Branch Offices.

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## Letters to the Editor

### "Our Bad Habits"

Every nation has good and bad habits. In Yemen there are many good habits and some bad habits. I think one of the bad habits is "Chewing Qat".

Qat is a serious problem, because it affects many aspects of our lives, such as the economy, development, health, and agriculture. There are so many disadvantages to qat. I'll write some of them.

First, qat has replaced other useful products and it spreads very fast everywhere in the country.

As a consequence, useful crops have vanished and our exports have fallen. Thus we began to import a lot of things.

Second, coffee which Yemen has been famous for a long time, has been neglected.

Third, most of the Yemenis chew qat and spend a lot of money on it. Some addicts spend money on qat, no matter how poor their families are.

Fourth, it causes some diseases such as constipation, anemia, insomnia, stomach ache, etc.

Fifth, people who chew qat stay at their homes from afternoon until sunset without any work.

For these reasons and others, I have decided to give up chewing qat since 1990. I hope that other readers of Yemen Times will be aware of qat's dangers. We should help each other to fight this bad habit.

By: Ibrahim Ali Shami  
English Dept, Hajjah.



**Yemen-America Language Institute**

Phone: 203251

Fax: 203364

### YALI Registration Information for Fall - Term 22

- **Duration of Term 22:** August 25, 1996 - November 4, 1996.
- **Placement examination information:**
  - \*Exams will be held during every Thursday in July.
  - \*To attend a placement exam, you must register the week before.
  - \*The cost of the exam is USD \$10. Yemeni Riyals are not accepted.
- **Registration for Term 22 classes:**
  - \*Current YALI students.....August 11-12
  - \*New YALI students.....August 13-14, 17-21
  - \*Registration times.....9 am - 3:30 pm
- **Please note:** To register as a current YALI student, you must bring your term 21 ID card, and know your ID number. Class times are 8:30-10:30, 10:45-12:45, 2-4, 4:15-6:15, 6:30-8:30 throughout the day.
- **Special Classes:** Advanced Conversation, Advanced Writing, and Short Stories (offered to Level 5 & 6 students only).
- **Registration fee:** USD \$100.00, including classroom instruction and text books. Yemeni Riyals will not be accepted. All YALI students must be 18 years old or above.

**Please note:** Registration fees are not refundable, nor will students be allowed to postpone their courses or change their times or teachers once they have registered. If you are not sure you can attend what you will register for, don't register. Class assignment during registration is on a first-come, first served basis. YALI reserves the right to limit registration times and days based on student numbers.

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## Elders of Taiz Pass Verdict in Favor of Hadharem Welfare Association

The elders of Taiz signed last week a memorandum stating that Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA) was victimized. The elders, include such big names as Sheikh Abdul-Salam Shamsan, Mr. Saeed Al-Hakeemi, Sheikh Mohammed Sa'ad Al-Qubati, Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Noman, Abdul-Samad Mutahhar, Mohammed Abdo Saeed, etc. The statement, reproduced below, indicates that the elders had tried to bridge the gap between the HWA and the leaders of the neighboring Adeem village. "We have tried to reach out to the elders of Adeem village, but we were rebuffed," they wrote. Apparently the Adeem elders have a mission - to disrupt the

work of HWA. Many Adeem villagers are surprised with the behavior of their elders. The elders of Taiz, among the leading business families as well as outstanding public figures of the governorate and the whole country, have also asked the state officials to deal with this case in such a way as to stop any parties that seek to create disturbances and trouble in the region. "We expect our rulers to side with the party that is oriented towards positive construction, and to stand up firmly against the party that is oriented towards destruction," the statement said. The elders of Adeem are accused by the HWA of acting on behalf of corrupt and bad officials in an

effort to grind the HWA to a halt. Many excuses and pretexts have used to destroy what was promised to become a model NGO in terms of execution of projects and raising of funds. The HWA is an NGO that has successfully implemented various development projects, and increased local awareness of political, economic and socio-cultural rights. "The ball is now in the hands of the government officials. They should ask themselves why they side with the bad guys in this problem," said Sheikh Amin Qassem Sultan Al-Shameeri, an outstanding businessman, and one of the signatories of the document.

## British Council Support Sports Coaches & Referees Establish Association for Sports in Yemen

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, received in his office last week the Director of the British Council Mr. Brendan Mac-Sharry, and Mr. Abdullah Al-Dhurebi, Manager of Projects at the British Council. At that meeting they discussed British support the Yemeni sports and athletes. The British side offered the following assistance:

- 1- Sports material and equipment valued at £22,000 for the High Institute for Physical Education.
- 2- Administrative material for the Olympic Yemeni Center at the cost of £3,000.
- 3- The British government also agreed to contribute towards construction of the sports Olympic Center for female athletes.
- 4- To finance the visit of an expert to the High Institute for Physical Education and make a survey on the needs of the institute, and possibilities for cooperation.

Last week, fifty sports coaches and referees met to found an association that will serve as a forum and meeting ground for them. It will also serve as a focal point for developing the functions of coaching and refereeing. The proposed Association of Sports Coaches and Referees is the going to be first of its kind in the Republic. "The main objective in founding this association is mobilize interest in these important aspects of sports activities," reads a by-law circulated by the founders. The group elected a small committee to prepare for the official formation of the association and to call to a general congress. These events are expected to take place in a few weeks, but not later than the end of the year. This step from the coaches and referees is a milestone in the progress of sports in Yemen. The effort has the blessing of the athletes as well as the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

## بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

### تقرير اللجنة المشكلة من بعض أعيان تعز للنظر في الخلاف بين جمعيتي أديم والحضارم

قال تعالى: «وان طائفان من المؤمنين ائتلتوا، فاصلحوا بينهما، فان بغت إحداهما على الأخرى، فقاتلوا التي تبغي حتى نفي، إلى أمر الله...»  
صدق الله العظيم

إن الأحداث المؤسفة التي شيدتها عزلتا أديم والحضارم منذ فترة قد استغرت أبناء المنطقة وكل الناس الذين يعرفون أهالي العزلتين وما بينهم من صلوات ووشائج وقرى. وبالرغم من تفاقم تداعيات الأحداث وسعي البعض إلى تصعيدها، فقد عمل العديد من الأهل من الخيرين على منع إستدراج المنطقة إلى ما لا يحمد عقباه، ولم يندلوا جبهوداً حثيثة لإعادة المياه إلى مجاريها.

وكذا تبادينا نحن الموقعين أدناه - إستجابة للواجب - للمساهمة في تقريب وجهات النظر والسعي لإصلاح ذات البين، وتجسير الفجوة بين الأقرباء والجيران وذلك حرصاً منا على أهاليينا في العزلتين. وبموجب موافقة الطرفين، شكلنا لجنة للنظر في الخلاف وإصدار حكمتنا في الموضوع. وقد تشكلت اللجنة على إثر ثلاثة إجتماعات في شهر فبراير ١٩٩٦ من:

الشيخ عبدالسلام شمسان، الأستاذ عبدالصمد مطهر سعيد، الأستاذ سعيد محمد الحكيمي،  
الأستاذ محمد سعد القباطي، الشيخ عبدالرحمن أحمد نعمان، الأستاذ محمد عبده سعيد أنعم،  
الدكتور محمد عبد الحميد قباطي، الأستاذ زين محمد السقاف، الأستاذ عبدالجبار عبدالله الأديهي.

- نريد في هذا التقرير الموجز، وبعد أن وصلت جهودنا إلى طريق مسدود بسبب تعنت قيادة جمعية أديم، أن نضع الحقائق التالية أمام الله والناس:
- ١- كتبت اللجنة رسالتين إلى الطرفين في بداية شهر مارس ١٩٩٦ تطلب منبنا تحرير تفويضين للجنة بحسب الإتفاق معها. كما طلبت منبنا تحرير مذكرة بوجبة نظر كل طرف مع الوثائق المؤيدة.
  - ٢- في ١٩٩٦/٢/١١، تلقت اللجنة تفويضاً مطلقاً وشاملاً وقاطعاً من الدكتور عبدالعزيز السقاف - رئيس جمعية الحضارم بالحجرية - وكذلك مذكرة توضح وجهة نظر جمعية الحضارم مع الوثائق المؤيدة.
  - ٣- لم تلحق اللجنة أي شيء من طرف جمعية أديم. لذلك، عمدت اللجنة إلى إرسال مندوبين عنبنا لمعرفة الموقف.
  - ٤- رفض الأخ محمد سيف ثابت التعاملي مع جهود اللجنة مدعياً أنه ليس طرفاً في القضية وأن الموضوع لا يعنينا، وهذا الإدعاء مخالف لواقع الحال بحسب ما تشير إليه الحقائق والوثائق. ثم قال أنه بإمكان اللجنة الإتصال بالأخ سلام علي ثابت.
  - ٥- إتصلنا بالأخ سلام علي ثابت وأبلغناه بأن اللجنة إستلمت تفويض الدكتور السقاف، وأنها تطلب منه تفويضاً مماثلاً مع وجهة نظره والوثائق.
  - ٦- إعتبر الأخ سلام علي ثابت عن الحضور إلى صنعاء ودعا اللجنة أن تنزل إليه إلى تعز لإستلام التفويض. وحرصاً من اللجنة، وافقت على ذلك.
  - ٧- قام الأخ سلام علي ثابت بتحديد المكان والزمان للإجتماع، حيث حدد الساعة العاشرة من يوم سابع عيد الأضحى المبارك في فندق الاخوة بتعز.
  - ٨- نزل بعض أعضاء اللجنة وانضم إليهم في تعز الحاج علي محمد سعيد وانحاج أحمد فائل سعيد وغيرهما. كما طلبت اللجنة من الدكتور عبدالعزيز السقاف أيضاً السفر إلى تعز لنفس الغرض. وصل الجميع بدون إستثناء إلى مكان الإجتماع وفي الموعد المحدد.
  - ٩- فوجئنا بتخلف الأخ سلام علي ثابت عن الإجتماع، وبنون أن يترك لنا خيراً أو عنراً لعدم حضوره للإجتماع الذي دعا إليه هو نفسه وحدد مكانه وزمانه.
  - ١٠- كلف الحاضرون لجنة مصغرة من بينهم وهم الحاج علي محمد سعيد والشيخ عبدالرحمن أحمد نعمان والدكتور محمد عبدالحميد قباطي لتابعة الأخ سلام علي ثابت لمعرفة موقفه.
  - ١١- في اليوم الثالث التقت اللجنة بالأخ سلام علي ثابت وطلبت منه تحرير التفويض. إلا انه إشتراط إضافة ثلاثة أشخاص يقرحهم هو إلى لجنة التحكيم.
  - ١٢- عادت اللجنة بهذا الشرط إلى الدكتور عبدالعزيز السقاف لتعرف رأيه فيه. وافق عليه من فوره وطلب الإستمرار بالمسعى.
  - ١٣- أبلغنا الأخ سلام علي ثابت بالموافقة على شرط توسيع اللجنة وطلبنا منه تحرير التفويض. إلا أننا فوجئنا بالرفض القاطع منه.

بهذا تكون مساعينا قد وصلت إلى طريق مسدود. ولأننا وجدنا أنفسنا محاصرين بالأسئلة من أبناء المنطقة والجيران وكل المهتمين بالقضية الذين ما انفكوا يستفسرون عما آلت إليه جهودنا، فقد سطرنا هذه الحقائق ليجدوا فيها ما قد يرد على إستفساراتهم، ولكي نضع المسؤولين في الدولة أمام واجبهم لينعوا الفتنة عن المنطقة وليتصدوا بحزم ضد من يقف وراءها ويريد أن يشعلها.

والله من وراء القصد، وهو ندعو أن يأخذ بأبيتنا إلى ما يحبه ويرضاه إن سميح مجيب.

١٩٩٦/٦/٢٠

الإسم  
محمد عبد الحميد قباطي  
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محمد عبد الحميد قباطي

## Problems in Electing Sports Club Boards

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By: Jamal Al-Awadi,  
Sport Editor, Yemen Times



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## Rain Floods Bring Disaster to Yemen

The Government of Yemen approached donor countries and international organizations for relief aid to the meet the needs of the emergency situations in Marib, Al-Jawf, Shabwah, Abyan, Hadhramaut and Al-Maharah. The six governorates had been hit by flash floods following heavy rains.

Word was passed to the UN organizations, World Bank, Islamic Conference, and many others. The Yemen Times learned that President Ali Abdullah Saleh used the occasion of the Arab Summit in Cairo to explain to some Arab leaders - in side meetings - the extent of the damage. Many roads, bridges, electric networks, farms, water wells, houses, tractors and transport vehicles have been wiped away. In addition, stored goods and inventory of food have been taken away by the floods. The total cost of the damage is estimated at \$ 1.2 billion, and is expected to rise.

Human casualties are put at 200 persons, so far. A few weeks ago, similar floods brought havoc to Taiz, Ibb and Hodeidah. Government efforts are already strained by relief efforts in those floods. A few countries and organizations have responded positively. So far, pledges exceed \$30 million in cash and in kind.



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