

OUR VIEWPOINT

Low-Level Violence: The Need for Corrective Action

On any day, there are several incidents in Yemen. Although these are not really violent in the traditional sense, they are, however, an ominous sign of the restlessness that prevails in the country. They incidents involve murder, robbery, theft, hostage-taking, rape, assault, and other forms of violence. The Ministry of Interior seems helpless as it watches the security situation deteriorate steadily.

I want to provide answers to two questions in this regard: Why is this phenomenon on the rise? And what can be done?

The answer to the first question is manifold. However, it does include the following:

a) Widespread Acquisition of Arms:

Some reports say there are over 50,000,000 pieces of arms (notably guns and pistols) owned by the Yemeni public. That is an average of three pieces for every Yemeni. The fact that arms are so handy makes people revert to using them more often than would have been the case otherwise.

b) Economic Hardship:

The economic crunch is driving many people to break the law. According to some statistics, some 40% of the Yemeni population is already below the poverty (subsistence) line. In addition, the high rate of unemployment (some statistics put it at 37%) has been a factor.

c) Lack of Justice:

In many cases, like in vendetta murder, the violence is caused by the fact that the judicial system does not work. Offenders are not reprimanded or punished through the institutions of the state. This pushes some elements in society, especially those who have grievances which are not addressed, to take the law into their own hands.

d) Widespread Corruption:

The widespread nature of corruption has helped increase violence for two reasons. On the one hand, criminals and offenders feel they can get out of any situation with money and other favors. Thus they are more aggressive in breaking the laws. On the other hand, the lack of full enforcement of the law makes some people make their own laws.

Those are some of the reasons, and of course, there are others. But now, what can be done?

a) Putting the Government House in Order:

One of the key requirements to fight violence is to put the government house in order. This means improving the judicial system, enhancing effectiveness of law-enforcement agencies, weeding out corruption in the bureaucracy, and promoting even-handed development.

b) Personal Militias/Bodyguards Must be Curbed:

The country needs to bring under control the widespread use of personal militias and bodyguards. We also need to regulate better the distribution/use of arms among the general public.

c) A Sense of Legitimacy for the System:

The way some representatives of the system behave does not instill any sense of legitimacy. Many officials use their posts to break the law, this setting a bad example.

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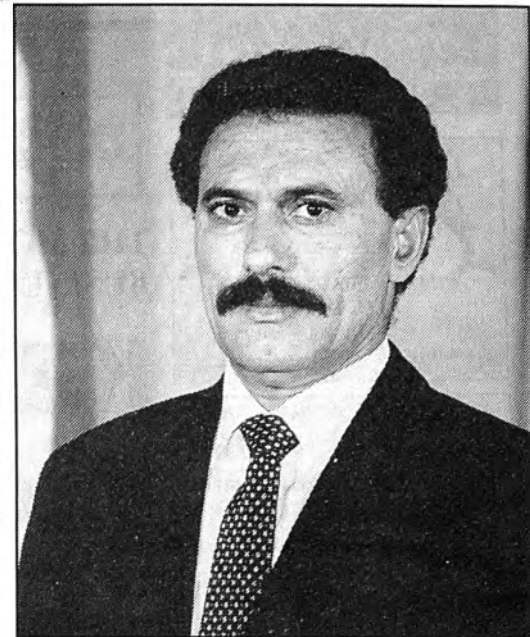
President Saleh Leaves for Germany

President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the accompanying delegation have a busy schedule during the 6-day visit to Germany. They will have 62 meetings in six German cities and will have formal talks with all levels of Germany officials. In addition to official talks, the President and the delegation will also have some time for sightseeing. They will pass by the historic palaces along the Rhine, visit museums, and inspect the commercial center in Leipzig.

Yemeni-German relations are definitely going to witness a new milestone in this trip. The two sides are keen to increase commercial exchange and engage in joint investments. Cultural and social cooperation is also high on the agenda.

Some Highlights of the Program:

- Departure from Sanaa: 11:00 am on 8/9/97
- Arrival at Adenauer Airport, Bonn.
- Trip in the Rhine: Tuesday 9/9/97
- Address of Press Saleh at the Bundestag at 5:00 pm on 9/9/97.
- Lunch on 10/9/97 with Dr. Rita Susmuth, Speaker of the Bundestag.
- 4:00 pm. on 10/9/97 meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Dr. Kinkel.
- 7:30 pm on 10/9/97: dinner with German President Roman Herzog.
- Visit to Saxonia on 11/9/97
- Visit to Berlin: 12/9/97
- Meetings include with businessmen, the press, parliamentarians, etc.
- Return to Sanaa on 13/9/97



Prime Minister Reaches Out to the Professionals

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, has adopted a new policy to reach out to the various professional groups. He is inviting different professions to his home for an extended weekly qat chew. The man himself does not chew, but sits and mainly listens. "The purpose is first to know each other, and second to establish channels of contact and friendship," he explained to the Yemen Times.

The first meeting was with the business community. Dr. Faraj invited leading businessmen and members of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry to an extended meeting. He discussed with them their problems and what can be done to help resolve them. He also explained the coming policies of the government and the role the private sector can play. The second meeting, last week, was with the media. He invited some 20 media leaders to the weekly qat chew. Again here, he listened, and then gave a few

comments. The journalists asked him to establish an official spokesperson who will brief the media regularly on issues.

This week, the Prime Minister is inviting the judges. "I want to discuss the conditions of the courts and how to better judicial services." The government is planning a major overhaul of the justice system.

It is believed other professional groups will be invited as the weeks go by in order to increase understanding between them and the government.

The groups invited indicate the priorities of the prime minister. The economy has a clear priority. Then came the media, press freedom, etc. Then came the legal system. This is a very good order of priorities for this government.

The effort on the part of Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim to reach out is commendable. At the very least, it generates more goodwill and cooperation from the various groups. This effort is useful. It is intelligent.



New YIDD Leadership Officially Recognized

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has formally endorsed the Yemeni Institute for the Development of Democracy's newly formed board of trustees.

This move came after the new board has submitted a file of the relevant legal procedures to the Ministry, which explained the benefits and reforms that will result from the new changes.

The former secretary-general, Ahmed Al-Soofi is officially no longer in charge of the YIDD.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Maytami was chosen as the president of the new board and Mr. Saeed Hamood Munasser as the new secretary-general. Other members of the board include Ms. Fayiza Abdulraqueeb (Aden branch), Ahmed Saleh Al-Hajji, Mohammed Ibraheem Sudam, Dr. Saleem Al-Tamimi, Dr. Salah Haddash, Ms. Aneesa Ghanim, Ali Al-Daylami, Dr. Ghaylan Al-Sharjabi, and Hassan Al-Haifi.

A press release issued by the new board has indicated that the YIDD, as an NGO, must remain independent from all political allegiances or individualistic goals. The new leadership has also stressed its commitment to reform this "important civil society institution."

The press release has also pointed out that the new board possess important documents implicating the former secretary-general in acts of corruption and mismanagement.

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Remy Rieffel:

"I am here to assess the Media College and make recommendations for UNESCO."
"The base of readership should be expanded in Yemen."

As Yemen's political evolution and democratization process continue, one of the sectors to gain in significance is the media. Public opinion became more important, and those who shape it, rise steadily in stature.

To reflect this fact, Sana'a University has last year established the Media College, thus transforming its former department into a full-fledged faculty. Enrollment in this college has increased manifold. Bilateral and international donors have been more than eager to help this sector grow.

Mr. Remy Rieffel, director of the Institut Français de Presse in Paris and professor of the Sociology of Mass Communication at Pantheon University, is now visiting the Media College on behalf of UNESCO. He is trying to determine how the international organization can help.

Due to the importance of this task, Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, interviewed Mr. Rieffel. Excerpts:

Q: What impressions of Yemen did you prior to your visit here?

A: I had a picture-post-card impression, especially of old Sana'a. This still exists in my head. As for political and economic development, my feelings were of malignant problems since the Gulf War.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit?

A: This is my first visit to Yemen. I am staying for one week, at the request of UNESCO, to study the conditions at the Media College in Sana'a University. The UNESCO wishes to get acquainted with the problems facing this college in order to be able to assist in its development.

Q: What is the expected outcome of your visit?

A: It is still early to talk about the results. However, there are certain important issues of real concern for me. First, there are about 1,700 students currently studying at the Media College. It will be quite difficult for such a number of graduates to find jobs in the media sector in the future. Second, the college is lacking in the necessary facilities and equipment such as radio and TV studios. Something must be done regarding this deficiency.

Also, the college library is not well-stocked with the required books on mass media and communication. Up-to-date books and other publications can be provided by Western countries,

in a somewhat better condition than others. They are better able to practice what they learn.

Q: Is there any intention of translating important media books into Arabic?

A: I cannot say for sure. I'll submit my recommendations, based on the outcome of this visit, to the UNESCO. They'll take it up from there.

Q: What do you think of the curricula and syllabuses taught in the College of Information throughout its 4-year course?

A: It is difficult to judge just from the list of subjects I saw. I'll have to look more closely into the contents of each subject to be able to evaluate them. It seems to me that most lecturers and professors at the college had graduated from Egypt, the former Soviet Union or other Eastern European countries. Study programs in those countries are different from their equivalents in Western Europe and the USA.

Q: Can you give an example on topics taught in Western universities that should be introduced here?

A: Yes, the sociology of mass communication, for instance, should be taught at Sana'a University. This subject includes several topics such as the effects of mass media on society and the political media.

Q: Are conditions in the Media



number of media graduates every year?

A: The essence is in the quality, not the quantity. Journalists must be well qualified and prepared for their future tasks. I said this to the dean of the college. Some Yemeni students will have to get further training abroad. It'll be very useful for them to compare their national mass media with that in other countries.

Q: Do you think the Media College should restrict the number of new students admitted annually?

A: This matter is linked to the college's policy. Generally speaking, however, it should be closely related to actual job opportunities. It is a matter of supply and demand as well as proper planning.

Q: Will you visit Yemen again?

A: My task ends with submitting my appraisal report to the UNESCO. So, in principle, I will not be visiting Yemen again, at least not on the present assignment. The UNESCO will decide on the steps to be taken.

Q: Have you had the chance to look into some Yemeni newspapers?

A: Unfortunately, I cannot read Arabic. But I read Yemen Times, and know its general content. I think it is a professional and very modern newspaper. It has a politically critical outlook.

Q: Do you have any professional comments to make on the paper?

A: As I said, the format and production of the paper is very modern. The articles are quite varied covering political, economy, cultural, legal, sports and other fields. It actually gives a balanced and rather comprehensive picture of the country. But the space assigned to advertisements is too much. That is probably the main criticism I want to make. (Yemen Times comment: This is important to safeguard the independence of the newspaper.)

Q: Do you think that Yemen needs more specialized news-

of the readers is improved. This is the crux of the matter - a large readership must exist first.

Q: What characterizes the French press in general?

A: France is unique in that it has a large number of specialized magazines and periodicals dealing with various topics such as women, tourism, art, sports, etc. Most of these publications have excellent circulation. The French national daily press, on the other hand, suffer from a dwindling readership. Local newspapers are better in that respect as they are read more widely in their regions.

Q: The recent accident that led to the death of Princess Diana in Paris has raised many legal questions regarding the conduct of French photographers and journalists. Do you think that there should be more strict legislation to control the behavior of such professions?

A: This issue is not limited to the French media only. European and American journalists in the popular press behave in a similar manner. There is a French law which prohibits the media from interfering in the private lives of the people, in general, and celebrities and politicians, in particular.

Q: Does a person whose photograph has been published

without his or her consent have the right to sue the publication concerned?

A: Yes, such a person has the right to sue and ask for damages, unless the picture is taken in public activity events. This happened many times, especially with the popular periodical *Voici*. The tabloids, however, persist in this manner. For them, going to court and paying compensation mean more circulation. The return would be larger than the compensation they pay.

Q: Press freedom is part of the overall human rights. Does your institute cover the whole subject?

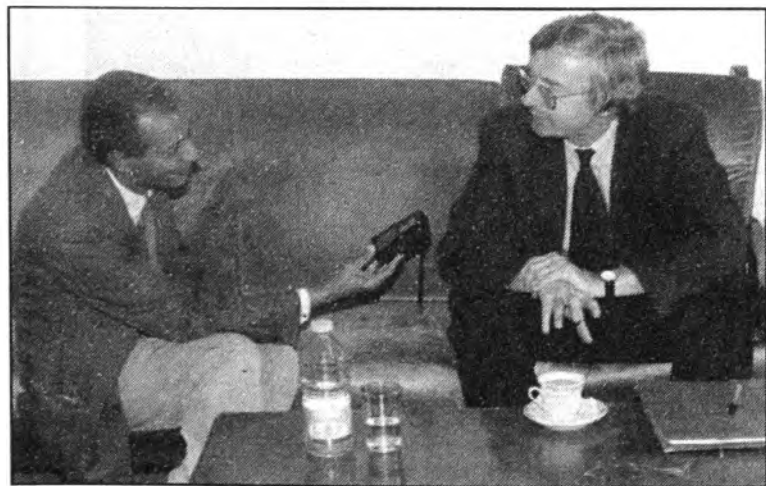
A: We do not teach human rights, under that name. But we teach a somewhat similar topic under the title of civil liberties. It is not part of the syllabus of the Media College in Sana'a. It will have to be.

Q: Public opinion is not as important in democratizing countries as it is in democratic ones. How does one nurture public opinion?

A: It is a matter of time. As the democratization process continues, citizens will realize the importance of positive interaction in public affairs.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I hope that my task will benefit the Media College.



since this field is quite developed there.

Q: Does the non-existence of radio and TV studios at the Media College mean that students are only taught the published media subjects?

A: No, there are three main departments at the Media College - the press; radio and TV; and public relations. Students in the Press Department, however, are

College at Sana'a University similar to condition in other Arab countries?

A: I am familiar with the Media College at Cairo University. It has signed an agreement with our institute according to which our professors lecture there. They have quite good facilities and equipment.

Q: Does Yemen, as a Third-World country, need this huge

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Book Review:

Performance of the Sanaa Courts in a Book

By: M. Bin Sallam,
YemenTimes.

Mr. Ahmed Hizam Al-Qabalani, Office Director for the Head of the Appeal Court at the Capital Sana'a, put together statistics regarding the court cases in Sanaa. The book, 119 large format pages, is entitled "The Second Statistical Yearbook" covering the year 1996/7.

In his introduction to the book, the Head of the Court of Appeal, Judge Hamoud Al-Hitar, indicated the importance of statistical data in "planning, reviewing, and evaluating the performance of courts and judges alike." "We are experimenting with a few new approaches, and if they succeed in Sanaa, we will investigate the possibility of universalizing them in the republic," he said.

The data cover all kinds of cases brought to a court of law in Sanaa - civil, criminal, personal status, commercial, administrative, labor, traffic, public funds, and compensation.

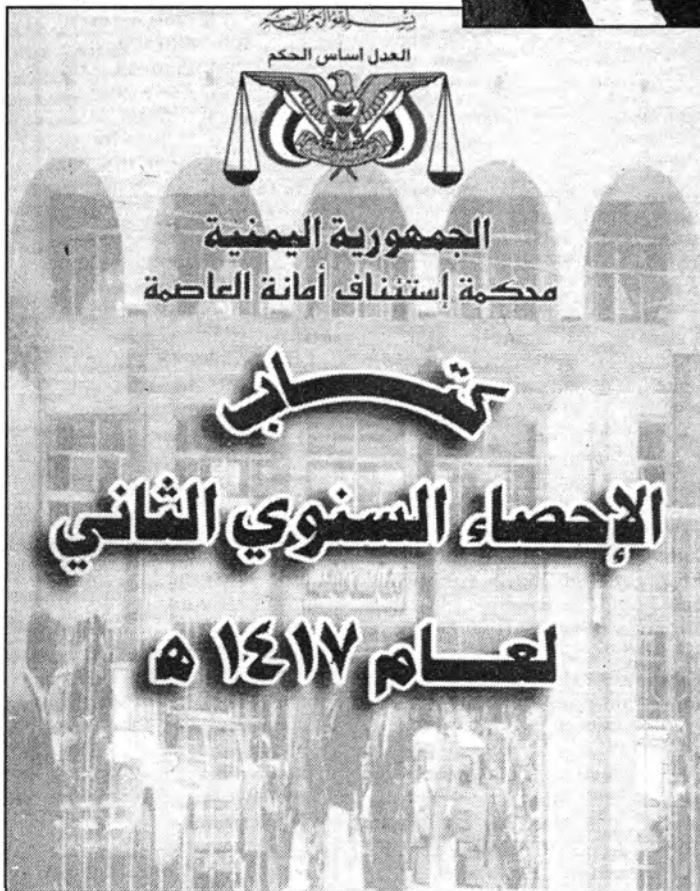
In addition, this publication contains statistics on the number of notarized documents, the numbers of court judges and administrative staff, fees levied on court cases, fines, injury compensations, inheritance, elections rebuttals, and the courts' revenue and expenditure.

The total number of cases brought to the appeal court in Sana'a was 2,759. The appeal court reached decisions on 1,461 cases. The remaining cases (1,298) are still being reviewed. The court's overall performance was assessed at 53%.

The total number of cases brought to the primary courts in the capital Sana'a was 11,436. Of those, 6,578 cases were resolved by the courts, and 4,858 cases are still under review. The courts' overall performance was 58%.

The total number of notarized documents was 26,193. These include such diverse documents as marriage, divorce, power of attorney, etc.

The total revenue of the primary



and appeal courts against services rendered during the past year was YR 32 million. Their expenditures, on the other hand, was about YR 50 million.

The total number of judges working in Sana'a is 44. There are also 51 assistant judges and 226 court clerks assisting the judges.

Qadhi Hamood Al-Hitar, an old hand in the justice system, said he was aware of the many complaints against the justice system in this country. "I feel the frustration of the people. The judicial system has a lot of problems. We are working hard to introduce reforms. But you cannot push reforms in an isolated way. Most of these efforts need to be integrated and unified in order to make meaningful changes," he indicated.

The book provides a lot of statistical information about the way the courts work. It also gives insight into the legal framework as it highlights the main laws affecting the work of the courts and discusses the strong and weak points of the system. The Sanaa Supreme Court's effort at documenting its work is something to be emulated.



Cont'd from page 1:

Yemen & Jordan ...

Given the ministers who are accompanying the Jordanian Prime Minister, it is possible to discern the fields of priority for cooperation as follows:

1. Health:

As many as 100,000 Yemenis flock to Jordan annually for medical treatment. Jordan also offers free medical treatment to some patients nominated by the Ministry of Health. The two sides agree there is more room for cooperation in this field.

2. Education:

There are roughly 600 Yemeni students doing their graduate and undergraduate studies in Jordan. Half of these are on scholarship, while the rest are self-financed. There are good possibilities here.

3. Trade:

Commercial exchange between

the two countries is rather minimal. The initial efforts on the part of Jordan to expand its market share in Yemen did not take off. Now, there is another effort.

4. Investments:

The possibilities in joint investments are good. That is why a visit to the Aden Free Zone is an important component of the program.

Beyond the bilateral cooperation aspect, the two sides will exchange notes on the pressing political issues, notably what to do with Israeli Prime Minister, Benyamin Netanyahu. Inter-Arab relations and cooperation is another slippery goal. Hopeful, it will not be that slippery at the bilateral level.

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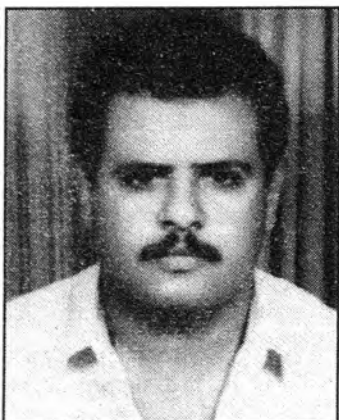
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Every week, a different intellectual writes a *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

"The next war may be fought between tenants and landlords."



By: Ali Saeed Al-Saqqaf *

between landlords and tenants. The Yemeni government seems oblivious to the sufferings of the tenants who are not given even minimal protection. The officials do not seem to comprehend the seriousness of the situation. Maybe the reason for this is that all the big shots and influential people in this country do own their homes. Not only that, but the majority are actually landlords who lease out their properties to various local and foreign tenants. So, it is in their interest that no law exist to regulate the relationship.

Enacting a law to address the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants is an urgent matter. It should be given the required priority. It is a basic requirement of a settled and peaceful urban community.

The housing crisis of Yemen is not something unique. It is the result of higher demand than supply, resulting from the influx of rural-to-urban migration all over the world. So, this crisis has been with us for a long time. But something unique happened in Yemen in the early 1990s. I would like to point 4 factors:

1. On May 22nd, 1990, the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen were merged to create the Republic of Yemen. This action

resulted in massive population shifts within Yemen.

2. Demand for housing increased sharply as a result of the expulsion of nearly one million Yemenis from the Gulf countries following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The action was taken to make Yemenis pay for the position of their government on the Iraqi invasion.

3. The development process has become a pull-factor for international and regional labor. As a result, tens of thousands of Iraqis, Sudanese, Egyptians, Indians and other nationals have established their homes in Yemeni cities.

4. The bloody civil war in Somalia has driven out thousands of Somalis. Most of them sought immediate refuge in Yemen, thus aggravating the housing crisis.

The demand-driven pressure on housing has yet to let up, in spite of the construction boom. In 1994, 3,663 housing permits were issued in cities. The number of permits rose to 5,243 in 1995, and to 7,843 in 1996. Even then, it is clear that demand exceeds supply by a wide margin, thus giving landlords the upper hand in this relationship.

Landlords have badly exploited the situation for their own greedy ends, taking advantage of the absence of any legislation. The

tenants have come under the mercy, or rather lack of it, of the greedy landlords. The latter tend to increase the rents regularly with any advance notice. Rents have risen, and continue to rise, in a crazy fashion. A modest rented apartment consisting of two bedrooms, a small living room, kitchen, and bathroom now fetches a minimum of YR 10,000 (US\$ 77) a month. By world standards, this may be low, but for a country in which the per capita GNP is around US\$ 350 per annum, it is quite a burden.

The rent is often equivalent to the monthly salary of a government clerk with a university degree. But the problem is not only the cost of the rent, but there are many complications. You may find a house that is not fit for living. There may not be the basic facilities such as running water, electricity, not to speak of a telephone line. Finding a suitable family home has become a source of anxiety and other psychological problems for many citizens. This has reflected itself badly on the performance and productivity of many individuals. It has also led to enormous social and family disputes.

There is a third complication. Foreigners, whether embassies, oil companies, trading enterprises and other similar entities are generous in their rent payments. This has resulted in 2 problems. First, the cost curve for rent has gone up steadily. But more importantly, people who construct new dwellings no longer cater to demand of low or middle class people. That is why, you find lots of lavish villas and palaces which are empty waiting for occupiers, while small units and apartments are not available at all.

Many people pinned hope on Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanem's new government. They continue to hope that something will give. He will do something. Despite the short time since his appointment, Dr. Ghanem has already acted positively towards the needs and concerns of the

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- Curriculum designed for English speaking children, ages 3 & 4 years
- Professional teacher assisted by paraprofessionals
- Enrollment limited to 20 children

little guy on the street. That is why people are still hopeful. Optimism prevails regarding the possibility of a suitable solution for the housing problems in the not too distant future.

To tackle this problem and to alleviate some of the burdens endured by the middle and low-income classes, the government will have to do the following:

1. To draft a new law regulating house-renting procedures. The interest of both the tenant and the landlord must be considered. There must be some guidelines to govern the relationship. Of course, the market will have to rule, but when the market is in temporary disequilibrium, some adjustment is needed. The rent must be specified, by law, according to the size, location and type of the property. A certain, reasonable percentage of annual rent increase can be built into the system.
2. To remove some of the

pressure imposed on major towns and cities by adopting decentralization and local administration, especially in financial and bureaucratic affairs.

3. To activate the Housing Bank, which is supposed to capitalize on the lucrative market conditions by either directly investing in housing projects, or by financing the efforts of individuals in this regard.

4. To re-classify and re-zone the major cities into new categories such as commercial, industrial, residential and other types of designations. This will help redistribute the population.

5. To provide essential services for rural areas and secondary town in order to check the flow of rural-to-urban migration.

6. To sanction the construction of housing complexes similar to those built during the 1970s such as the Hadda Residential City in Sana'a and other similar housing projects in Aden, Taiz, Hodeida, etc.

Low-income people need to be given priority in acquiring ownership of their homes in such complexes. Soft-loan facilities and various forms of easy credit will have to be provided to assist in this process.

If the housing crisis is not attended to, the government may be called on to intervene in the next war, which will be fought between tenants and landlords.

* Mr. Ali Al-Saqqaf is the managing editor of Al-Wahdawi newspaper.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UNDP

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

National Project Coordinator

National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan Project

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following post in its office in Sanaa.

This position is open to Yemeni Nationals only

Brief Description:

The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF/UNDP) and is implemented by the Environment Protection Council (EPC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The main objective of the project is to prepare a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, with the wide participation of government non-government institutions, and stockholders. The project will enable the Government of Yemen to fulfill parts of its obligations under the International Convention on Biological Diversity.

Tasks of the Coordinator:

- * Ensure the timely and effective implementation of all components of the projects;
- * Assist and coordinate with EPC and IUCN in all aspects of the project activities at the national and local levels, in close cooperation with concerned Ministries, UNDP and NGOs.
- * Facilitate and act as rapporteur of the Project Steering Committee meetings. Prepare monthly, quarterly and bi-annual and final technical reports for UNDP, EPC and IUCN.

Qualifications:

- * A minimum of MSc. degree in Biology, Wildlife Conservation, or any Environmental Science, with ten years of experience in the management of conservation of biodiversity;
- * Proven track record in management as well as the ability to work with experts, multi-government institutions, NGOs, and international organizations;
- * Ability to deliver (some times under pressure) reports, both finance and management, of high quality standards;
- * Fluent in English and Arabic. Excellent writing and communication skills in both languages. Familiarity with computer applications.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with detailed curriculum vitae to: Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box No. 551, Sanaa.

Applications should be received no later than 10th September, 1997.

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply, and acknowledgement will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

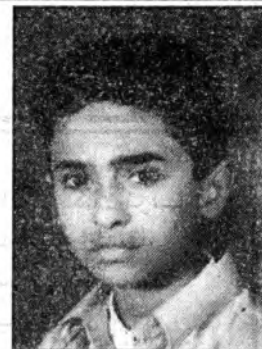
تهانينا

أجمل التهاني والأمانى الطبية
نتقدم بها إلى لاعب المنتخب اليمني
الرياضي / عصام دربيان
بمناسبة زواجه، وألف مبروك.
المهنيون:
خالد وسالم دربيان،
وجميع منتسبي النادي الأهلي بصنعاء،
وكافة الرياضيين ومحبي كرة القدم
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء



تهانينا

أجمل التهاني والأمانيات
نقدمها للفتى
عزمي علي هائل محمد
ثابت العريقي
بمناسبة نجاحه المتفوق
إلى الصف الثالث
الاعدادي.



المهنيون:
علي هائل محمد ثابت وجرمه،
عبدالحفيظ عبده محمد العولقي،
أنيس قائد محمد العولقي،
أنيس عبدالحليم العريقي، خالد قايد سعيد.



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Some Pointers for Yemen in Its Privatization Drive

The Republic of Yemen has decided to privatize some public sector companies, as part of the economic reform program. The effort has yet to start in earnest.

Last month, the Ministry of Planning and Development, along with some donors, organized a seminar on the issues.

Ms. Vera Gregor, a UNIDO senior administrator and development officer who is responsible for privatization, restructuring, entrepreneurship development at the Vienna International Center, was one of the many participants.

Ms. Ahlam Al-Mutawakil of Yemen Times talked to her about the Yemeni experiment in privatization.



Q: Could you tell us about the role UNIDO plays in the privatization process in Yemen?

A: UNIDO is in charge of the Yemeni privatization program, which we have initiated in Yemen together with the UNDP. The latter is the overall responsible and coordinator of activities of the UN system in this country. They started formulating the program in 1995. But operations started in 1996. They are trying to help in the Ministry of Planning to set up a technical privatization office. They try to give opportunities to its officer to come to know other experiences around the world. In Yemen, many ministries are involved in the privatization process.

Privatization is not an immediate goal for many people in Yemen, because there isn't enough knowledge about the method involved. In the UN, we really view privatization as part of an overall economic development where not only the select few participate, but a larger population in getting better opportunities.

Q: Who else is involved in this process in Yemen?

A: In Yemen, there is much bigger player involved - the World Bank. But the World Bank has different objectives. So, we try to do the complementary work by building the institutional capacity. This means we try to give those officials who are involved the required perspective. Currently, we started the management and plan layout, which would be the first case in Yemen. We aim to create not only the knowledge of legal procedures involved, but also what other institutions need to do so that real management and pre-buy-out can take place.

Management and pre-buy out means that an enterprise is being transferred in ownership to the current management as well as giving due shares to the employees. This is a new concept. We need to explain to the employees how to take care of their rights in such an enterprise.

Q: What are the obstacles that impede the process of privatization?

A: Yemen has probably now overcome a major obstacle. Privatization is a political decision where the government needs to be strongly committed. The Privatization Technical Office (PTO) has prepared a draft law, and submitted it to parliament. The proposal includes the establishment of a very effective office to be attached to the Prime Ministers office. This is essential to get a unified option, and to avoid rivalry among the different ministries. It will be under the guidance of the PM. It'll be our starting point for creating the institutional framework of the privatization process. The other pre-conditions include the changes required in the legal framework. This includes going through the first examples of formulating the contractual basis and doing the first move in the procedural part. All these procedures are worth knowing.

Q: How do you see the future role of the PTO?

A: The PTO needs to have a nationwide acknowledgment of the main office responsible for privatization. This means PTO, being in the ministry of Planning and Development, is challenged by other ministries which also have privatization department. But being linked to the PM's office, it will get some status. It'll elect a secretariat and a technical advisory body for the privatization process in all ministries so that there is a unification of the process.

Q: There are various negative aspects in privatization, how is this process going to be in Yemen?

A: In the short run, yes there are negative aspects. But, we have to bear in mind what is happening at the moment if we do not privatize. The government is simply keeping enterprises alive which have either no economic meaning at all. So the government has to heavily subsidize such enterprises. As long as the government has money, this may not be felt as a burden. But in Yemen money is very scarce. The government of Yemen has other areas such as education, basic health, and infrastructure where it can more fruitfully invest its funds. Keeping a few selected employees getting a small salary is not the orientation for the future. Of course, these people should not be left alone. There need to be supplementary programs. Privatization needs to go hand in hand with something which will create the opportunity for the people involved in the enterprises to be privatized. When the enterprises start to grow after privatization, they can take people again. It is re-orientation and re-organization.

Q: There is no law or legislation to organize the process of privatization in Yemen. What prohibits the buyer, say, from exploiting these projects for his own interests to the detriment of the public?

A: This is one of the very important issues to be looked at in privatization. Privatization is not making private monopoly out of a state monopoly. It means we see into the issue of competition. Where competition is not easy to be conceived. There needs to be a very sound regulatory framework to shield the public from exploitation. The private sector wants to gain profits as easily as possible. It is the role of the government to see that there is a cooperation with the private sector. Due to the competitive environment this means more procedures of the same services or products are involved. The government can reserve a certain say by having a so-called "golden share." It can have a last vote before something is put into action such as price increases.

Q: Don't you think that a protection system should be prepared before proceeding with the

privatization process?

A: I don't think you can set first all the right rules and regulations and then privatize. Rules and regulations should grow while we go through the privatization process. Yemen's specific case requires that we look how things are being done in other countries. We could have something similar prepared for Yemen. Privatization is not only selling. It also means that we let the private sector bring in its dynamic forces. We can think of privatization in the form of management contract. The private sector is allowed to do the things it can do best. The conditions need to be discussed between the two parties. There is never a perfect regulatory framework. The regulations have to be adapted to the conditions in the country and its cultural environment. If we don't have a good financial market, then we have to see how the regulations can create a good market.

The Yemeni people need to understand that private initiative is a positive element. The public-private partnership develops over time.

Q: How do you evaluate the privatization process in Yemen so far?

A: It is very early at the moment to talk about success. All the ministerial officials concerned need to be oriented towards the process. This can be done through awareness-raising programs and seminars. The better they understand the process, the better they can guide.

Q: What enterprises can have priority in privatization?

A: If an enterprise is seen as not viable and that it can not be rehabilitated, we have to consider that the liquidation of that enterprise is more than beneficial because you can use the assets in other areas. The better we prepare the government officials to do the process, the better results we have in the end. In several ministries, we are putting together what is called a "portfolio." We need to look at the public enterprises in terms of their operation, the staff involved, the future they'll have, and also if they are in an area where, through privatization action, the public can get a better service. There are classical approaches. We know that in the tourism sector some privatization has already taken place. In the transport sector, there is already some privatization initiated. We must bear in mind that there is an absorption capacity of the country in privatization. We are talking about how to mobilize resources to put into good investment opportunities. There is also a time frame to be looked into. The tele-communication sector will be one of the early sectors to be looked at. We have looked at the sector of power generation. It is important for a country to have broader development. In the transport sector, there will be certain areas looked at. Airlines are obvious areas. The port facilities would be an area to look at rather earlier.

Q: Do you like to send a message through Yemen Times to the government or society?

A: We have said many things which are valid for both government and the people. The government is taking the right steps to get well informed to know the possibilities. They are challenged to make a selection of these possibilities and to choose the privatization strategy for Yemen. We can have a privatization process without hurting the people. This can be one of the objectives of the government.

For the public, it is important to watch that privatization should go to a large group who are informed about the new opportunities of participating in the economic process. In the long-term process, we'll see that when we come to the tougher things we have already experienced how the arrangements can be done in Yemen.

Privatization in a growth process. It involves the mobilized participation of many institutions. If we talk about a social package, we want to see the training of concerned institutions, how the chambers of commerce are involved, and the efficiency of the social security system. In Yemen there is no social security. A cooperative arrangement needs to be discussed. Many ministries need to be involved in this process.

Q: To reduce the negative aspects of privatization, why isn't privatization made open through public share holding?

A: We need to see the private sector as including all citizens. Every Yemeni citizen must be seen as a prospective shareholder. We have started the first steps of management pre-buyout. We'll go into cases of managerial offerings and then into share offerings. One has to go step by step. Yemen does not have the institutional mechanisms at the moment for a broad share offering, because this includes a functioning banking system and a stock exchange. The latter doesn't even exist in Yemen.

Invitation for Prequalification

1. The Government of the Republic of Yemen (herein referred to as GOY) has received a Credit from the International Development Association, hereinafter referred to as the IDA, in various currencies towards the cost of **Transport Rehabilitation Project** and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contracts for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued.
2. The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, CAMA, hereinafter "the Employer" intends to prequalify contractors for the following contracts:
Construction of the New Control Tower, Technical Building and Related Facilities and Rehabilitation of the Terminal Building at the Aden International Airport will be issued in November 1997.
3. It is expected that the Invitation to Bid will be issued in November, 1997. The construction period is 21 months, commencing February, 1998.
4. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
5. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by calling, writing, or faxing the Employer:

Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA),
Zubairi Street, Sana'a,
Republic of Yemen.
Tel. (967) 1 272645 (967) 1 2747 274716
Fax. (967) 1 272645
Contact: Mr. Hussein H. Al-Sayaghi

Or The Consultant:
Netherlands Airport Consultants
115 Jan van Nassaustraat
2596 B.S. The Hague,
PO Box 85919
2508 CP, The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel: (31) 70 3264 131 Fax: (31) 70 324 5 302
Contact: Mr. M. R. Hill

6. The request must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for Construction of Control Tower, Technical Building and related Facilities, and Reconstruction of Aden International Airport Terminal Building". The documents are available for a non-refundable fee of US \$200. The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, CAMA will promptly dispatch the documents by registered airmail, but under no circumstances will be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed.
7. A minimum requirement for qualification of firms will be to have successfully carried out five similar Airport projects in the life of the contracting firm, at least two of which have been in the Middle East.
8. Submission for Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, which must be either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:

Transport Rehabilitation Project,
Civil Aviation Component,
The Project Implementing Unit,
Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, CAMA
Zubairi Street, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Not later than 18 October, 1997

and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Construction of New Control Tower and related Facilities and Rehabilitation of the Terminal Building at Aden International Airport". Applicants will be required to submit one original and three copies of the application for prequalification.

9. The CAMA reserves the right to accept or reject any applications.
10. Applicants will be advised, in due course, the results of their applications. Only firms and joint ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid.

What We Think We Know and What We Don't Know



Yemen is one of the countries of the world which suffers from water scarcity. Many cities, such as Taiz, Sanaa, Sa'adah, etc. are fast running out of drinking water. In addition, the available supply of water is itself becoming too contaminated due to a number of factors. Improper sewer drainage, extensive use of chemicals, and exhaustion of underground water reservoirs are some of the reasons. Therefore, any effort at purification and disinfection of water will be an important element in our future.

Disinfection of water is one of many processes for treatment of water: It destroys or renders pathogens (micro-organisms that cause diseases in humans) harmless. There are two types of disinfection methods: primary and secondary. Primary disinfection results in the required level of pathogen kill or inactivation. Secondary disinfection continues to protect against regrowth of microorganisms in the water system. The three primary methods, in use in Yemen and most parts of the world today, are chlorination, ozone, and ultraviolet light. There are other, less used methods including chloramines, chlorine dioxide, potassium permanganate and nanofiltration. A recent breakthrough in water disinfection uses ionization as its core technology, and is expected to be one of the best water disinfecting techniques in the future.

Chlorination is the most widely used method of disinfection. Chlorine in gas, liquid or granular form may be used. Chlorine gas is the most economical form; however, it is somewhat dangerous. Chlorine gas can be deadly and is generally used by public water supplies with trained or licensed operators. Liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite solution) is typically available in concentrations of 5 to 15 percent. Although more expensive, it is easier to handle than gas or granular chlorine. Liquid chlorine is readily available, but has a relatively short shelf life. It should be stored in a dark, cool, dry area for no more than one month. Granular chlorine (calcium hypochlorite) requires special handling. This white solid is very stable when packaged; but has a strong odor and is very corrosive. When mixed with organic material, it generates heat capable of igniting. It also absorbs moisture which forms chlorine gas. Generally, it is dissolved in water and injected into a water supply like sodium hypochlorite. In addition to granular, it is available in pellet, powder and tablet forms.

Ozonation is a powerful disinfectant, which is formed by passing dry air through or around high voltage electrodes. An advantage of ozone is shorter contact time required compared to chlorine. It is a viable primary disinfectant, but has no value as a secondary disinfectant. Ozonation equipment are relatively expensive. Ozone does not produce trihalomethane, but it is very corrosive. Maintenance costs, including electric power to operate, are also high.

Ultraviolet light effectively sterilizes bacteria and viruses. UV radiation produced by a special lamp, destroys the bacteria's genetic material so it cannot reproduce. As a primary disinfectant, it is excellent; there is, however, no residual value. Contact time is minimal with UV, no toxic byproducts are created; and, they are easy to maintain. Operation costs are fairly low; pretreatment to remove turbidity, hardness, and iron may be necessary. Maintenance includes lamp replacement and periodic cleaning.

Ionization is an ancient method for water disinfecting; however, only recently has been industrially introduced. By electrolysis, the process releases a steady stream of positively charged ions (copper and silver) which form a stable residual disinfectant unaffected by temperature or water balance. The copper and silver ions kill and disable all living organisms from bacteria to algae and viruses by electrostatically "zapping" them with their positive electrical charge. The treated water is within international drinking water standards and the process does not impart taste or odour. The system cost a tenth of the price of standard chlorinating processes and there is a considerable reduction in running costs through cost-savings in energy and maintenance and reduction in corrosion to plant and equipment.

The effectiveness of a disinfection method can be evaluated by testing for an indicator organism (total coliform bacterial). Because there are advantages and disadvantages of all the above mentioned disinfection methods, to choose the appropriate method, the all parameters for a particular application must be evaluated first, and hence, although disinfection of water is one of many opportunities in water treatment available to contractors, a professional consult should be always the initial step.

* Professor at Sanaa University.

From Page 1:

BACK TO SCHOOL...

Beyond providing for the needs of schools, the Ministry of Education has to instill a certain sense of discipline and values. The level of cheating in exams, forgery of certificates, appointment of incapable people simply because they are politically recommended, and the general carelessness that permeates the school system is at disturbing levels. Another objective must be to expand the opportunity for children's schooling. The nearly 4 million children who now go to school represent just over 50% of the school age population. The situation is even more disturbing regarding girls, of whom only a third go to school.

Influential members of society do not accept that their children can fail in exams. So, by hook or crook, they manage to have certificates for their children. It is estimated that some 8,500¹ certificates are sold annually. The ultimate goal of education seems to be getting a certificate rather than learning something. Look at the documents reproduced below. A student who failed his exams turned around and bought a certificate!



Only a third of school-age girls go to school

[illegible]

The document above is the listing of the students who passed/failed the 9th grade (preparatory level) examinations. One of the failed students in Abdullah Ali Zohra. His number is 9399. The document below is the graduation certificate of the same student.

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اختيار شهادة البكالوريا
الدراسية العامة
تعام الدراسي ٩٠/٩١

رقم الجلوس: 9399

اسم الطالب بياضية وتكتب: محمد علي
محل الميلاد: تونس
اسم والي الطالب لائيا علي علي مهنته معلم
اسم ولي الامر علي مهنته معلم
اسم المدرسة تونس
توقيع مدير المدرسة: محمد علي
مدير مدرسة علي

المواد الدراسية	النهاية الكبرى	النهاية الصغرى	بالأرقام	الدرجات المستحقة التي حصل عليها الطالب بالحروف
التربية الإسلامية	١٠٠	٥٠	٧٠	جيد
اللغة العربية	١٠٠	٥٠	٦٥	جيد
اللغة الإنجليزية	١٠٠	٤٠	٥٠	جيد
جبر	٥٠	٢٠	٢٠	نقص
هندسة	٥٠	٢٠	٢٠	نقص
مجموع الرياضيات	١٠٠	٤٠	٦٠	جيد
اجتماعيات	١٠٠	٤٠	٧٧	جيد
العلوم والصحة	١٠٠	٤٠	٦٧	جيد
السلوك	١٠٠	٤٠	٩٥	جيد
المجموع العام بالأرقام	٧٠٠	٣٥٠	٤٨٤	المجموع العام بالحروف: <u>جيد</u>

ملاحظات: ٥٠

٠٠٢٥٦٦

رئيس لجنة النظام والمراقبة
التي يقع والتمت الرسمي

PASSION FOR PEOPLE

AT SHERATON SANA'A WHAT'S GOING ON

There's a lot in store waiting to be unveiled at the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel. In the months to come there are a string of activities which will keep you enthralled right through. To keep you updated, the Hotel still continues with its various speciality nights of **Tex Mex on Sundays, Italian Night on Tuesdays and Sea Food on Wednesdays**. In attendance is the Dibi and Mike Band from Poland whose repertoires include music from the days of old to the modern which will want to make you sing along. The Sheraton's latest introduction is the **Business Lunch** which is on at **Nour Al Negoum Restaurant**. The service is explicit and the quietness that pervades makes it an ideal location to conduct business dealings. The good news is that their **Al Mandhar Lounge** is also open during lunch time with the **Happy Hour**.

Coming attractions at the Hotel include the much looked forward to **German Food Festival** better known as the **OKTOBER FEST**. On the **7th, 8th and 9th October 1997** the Layali Sana'a Tent will be converted into a typical German hamlet which will offer you a wide variety of food from all over the country including original Bavarian White Sausages and Bretzel, grilled sausages, steaks, Konigsberger - Klopse, Sauerkraut, Rostkartoffeln, vegetables, salads and lots of

desserts. This, combined with the Musikappelle Partenkirchen Band, being specially flown in from Munich by **Lufthansa**, along with the German Chefs from Gasthof Krone Eichstatt courtesy **Lufthansa**, is bound to make your evening an enjoyable one. The event is being co-sponsored by YATA and Becks Beer.

Following close on the heels of the Oktober Fest, will be the **Swiss Food Festival** which will be held in **early November**. Chefs and the Band will be flown in all the way from Zurich and you can be assured of authentic Swiss Cuisine which

would include Delices de grison avec du fleur de fromage, Creme d'orge perle Grisonaise, Filets de perche lucernoise, Fondue and Rosti hash brown potatoes better known as "Roesti".

For those who are lost in time and fashion, **La Vista** an evening of **Haute Couture and food** will be brought to you on the **28th November** with an exclusive show for ladies on the **5th December**. With outfits styled by Victorine Stadelmann, this would be a show worth watching.

The Yuletide season is a nostalgic one for those

who have to remain in Sana'a. What better way to celebrate this time of Year and bring in the New Year than with **Spanish Cuisine**. Look out for further details to get more information on the upcoming festivities.

Anyone still in Sana'a who can remember the **Car Park** of Old? The good news is that the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel will be recommencing this popular event from **October 16th, 1997**. Yes, it's Thursdays this time, so make a note in your dairy that Thursday nights will now be spent at the Sheraton Poolside.

Enough of talk about food. The focus now shifts to the Thula Recreation Centre. Besides, it becoming a very popular centre for Tennis, Aerobics, Swimming and work outs, a **KLM International Tennis Tournament** will be commencing for two weeks from **26th September**. All the Tennis buffs in town are requested to sign up for this very interesting event and if you are a veteran, you may just be the lucky winner.

So make note of all these upcoming events to ensure that you do not miss out on any. There is nothing to be lost, but a lot to be gained.

*it's all happening
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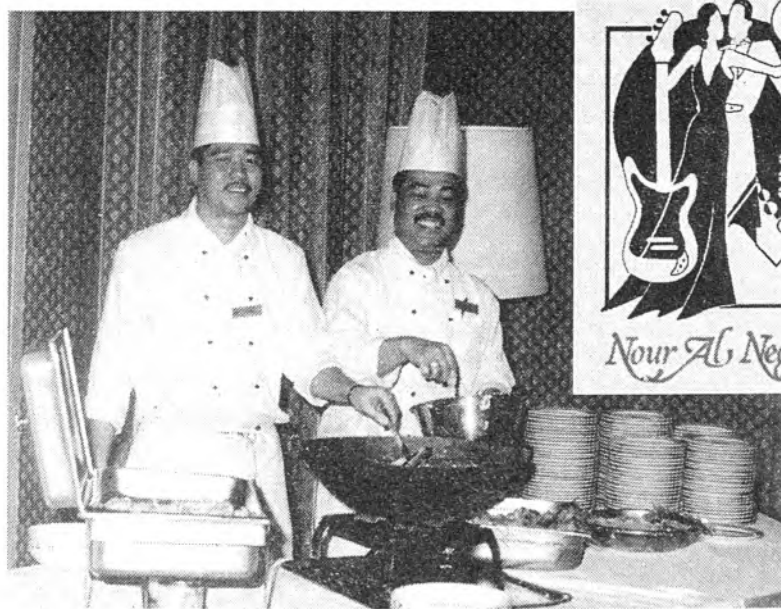



Sheraton Sana'a
HOTEL

OUR WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU

The first Lebanese to land in Yemen more than 30 years ago as a young man was Tanios Murad. Fondly known as 'Papa' or 'Puppy' at the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel, he is the oldest serving employee. At the ripe old age of 77 and with the designation of Government Public Relations Manager of the hotel, he still manages to instil a lot of fear in people and gets what he wants. Having arrived in Sana'a in the early '70's, it was he who was responsible for commencing the hotel industry in the country. He started out as General Manager of Dar Al Hamd Hotel before joining the Sheraton in '81 as Banquet Manager. For his contribution to Tourism in Yemen he was awarded a certificate and a citation from the Ministry of Tourism. Seen above is Papa Murad (8th from left) with Mr. Abdullah Melhem, the General Manager of Sheraton, other colleagues and dignitaries.

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OUR WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU

The Sana'ani Qanbous

The qanbous no longer exists. It is extinct. It is a Yemeni musical instrument similar to the ud. This beautiful instrument, of wholly Yemeni origin, did not withstand the test of time and the sweeping changes of modernization. Many local artists have resorted to using the more popular ordinary ud. Up until the 1930s, the qanbous was quite popular among Yemeni musicians.

There is now one Yemeni artisan left in the old city of Sana'a who manufactures the qanbous to order. Hassan Al-Ajmi is one of the very few Yemeni musicians who still play the qanbous. The Minister of Culture, Mr. Abdul-Malik Mansour, recently asked Al-Ajmi to teach researchers and enthusiasts, national and foreign, to be acquainted with this instrument. One of his frequent visitors is Jean Lambert, a French scholar in ethnomusicology, who conducted several studies on the qanbous. Some of these were presented at the First Scientific Seminar on Yemeni Music held last July, and reported by the Yemen Times (issue #31 of August 4th through 10th, 1997, page 10).

Because it was mainly associated with Sana'ani singing, the qanbous is also known as the Sana'ani ud. It is also known in Sana'a as altarabi - from tarab which is the state of being elated with the joy of music. The word qanbous is probably more commonly used in Hadhramaut; while, in Aden kabanj or tabanj are used.

Due to the importance of the qanbous as a very rare musical



instrument, many researchers and interested people such as Fahad Al-Shoaibi took it upon themselves to look for it in the remote regions of Yemen. Towards the end of 1996, one qanbous was found by a group from the Culture Center of Sana'a in the village of Araf in Shahr, Hadhramaut. It was in the possession of the 98-year-old Sheikh Ghalib Al-Saadi who started playing the qanbous 80 years ago. The qanbous was brought to Sana'a, and is now exhibited in the little museum at the Culture Center. Examining its wooden structure, reveals the age of this qanbous to be 176 years.

"I bought this instrument about

70 years ago while I was a soldier in the Sultan's army," reminisced Sheikh Ghalib, adding that "a passer-by was carrying it in a way that saddened me, so I had to buy it." The old Sheikh has kept this unique musical instrument in an excellent condition. It has now come to light that this particular qanbous was originally owned by Sheikh Sultan Bin Ali Bin Harhari, who used to play it as well.

In his Master's thesis from Cairo University, *Popular Yemeni Musical Instruments*, Fahad Al-Shoaibi has extensively dealt with the qanbous. He indicated that the qanbous appeared in Himyarite inscriptions dating back to the

2nd century A.D. A photograph of such an inscription from the Louver museum is shown in Al-Shoaibi's thesis. In addition, there is another picture taken around the turn-of-the-century showing a Yemeni band playing the qanbous.

Upon the recommendations of the First Scientific Seminar on Yemeni Music, a center for collecting and documenting Yemeni musical heritage has been established. Hopefully, this center will contribute towards preserving and reviving the diverse musical heritage in Yemen, including, of course, the qanbous.

* Marwan Al-Haidari

The Fine Art of French Cuisine at Taj Sheba

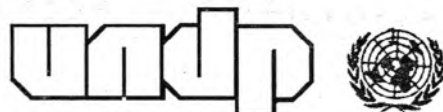
In a fitting tribute to a century of excellence by way of cuisine, elegance, style and service, we at the Taj Sheba are proud to recreate an evening of some classic from the unique recipe collection of Chef Anton Edelmann.

Chef Anton Edelmann was the Savoy Hotel maitre Chef des Cuisine in London, where he introduced a great number of dishes to enhance the reputation of the Savoy's world famous restaurant "The Savoy Grill".

Essentially modest about his own talents, Chef Anton Edelmann emphasizes the importance of team work in attaining and maintaining the highest standards of culinary excellence. With the same sense of dedication in our quest for perfection, we invite you to be part of our "TEAM" for an evening of fine food and delectable service at the Golden Peacock.

Date: 14th September 1997
Time: 8 pm onwards
Venue: Golden Peacock
Reservations: Please call Edwine Castelino - 272372 ext 157

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UNDP



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR A DRIVER

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is inviting applications for a qualified Driver in its office in Sana'a.

This position is open for Yemeni Nationals Only

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- Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc., performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean and in running order;
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption oil changes, greasing, etc.;
- Perform other duties as required.

Qualifications & requirements:

The applicant should have the following qualifications:

- Primary education valid driver's license, knowledge of driving rules and skills in minor vehicle repair;
- Five years' work experience as a driver; safe driving record;
- Basic mechanical skills;
- Excellent negotiating liaison skills;
- Bilingual (Arabic & English);
- Good health (eye sight test results should be attached).

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications supported by proofs of the above mentioned capabilities with their curriculum vitae to:

Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box No. 551, Sana'a.

Applications should be received **no later than 20 September, 1997**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgment will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post

Career Women Have a Better Say in the Affairs of their Family, and their Lives!

By: Athena Al-Absy*

Yemeni society, in general, considers the man as the breadwinner of the family. Women are not supposed to delve into their purses to pay for the day-to-day expenditures of the household. Islam has firmly guaranteed the rights of women to be financially independent. The husbands must not have control over their wives' financial resources. However, in view of the increasingly difficult economic circumstances, Yemeni women are now playing a larger role in family finances. In an attempt to find out more about this issue, four women from different backgrounds have been interviewed.

Amal, 30, is a university graduate and government employee with a salary of YR 8,000 a month. She is married and has two children. Although her husband's salary is enough to cover the family needs, Amal makes regular contributions by buying food, clothes and cooking utensils. If the need arises, she hands over her whole salary to her husband to spend as he sees fit.

Amal does this wholly out of her free choice. She would still keep some money for Amal to buy her own things or make a deposit at her bank account. "I am prepared to make bigger contributions even if my salary is not increased," she said; "but I still think the husband should continue to be the primary breadwinner for the family."

Bushra, 35, is a school teacher. Out of her YR 10,000 monthly salary, she regularly gives between YR 1,000 and YR 4,000 to her father, mother, and little brothers and sisters. Bushra said, "With the ever-rising price-levels of basic commodities, it is the duty of every son and daughter to help their parents even when he or she are married, and live with their spouses." Like Amal, Bushra also expressed her willingness to contribute more.

Laila, 28, works at a local bank for YR 20,000 a month. She is still single and lives with her parents and five siblings, two of whom are also working outside the home. Every month, Laila hands an amount of money in the range of YR 5,000 to YR

10,000 to her father, as a contribution towards the family budget. On top of that, she sometimes buys presents for her parents and little brothers and sisters. "I have agreed with my father that I should make regular financial contributions to help out in this hard economic condition," she said. What would she do with that money if she kept it to herself? "I would buy gold. It is a good investment for the future." Laila, however, does not believe that a husband or a father should be the sole breadwinner for his family. "An employed female doesn't necessarily need someone to support her, financially, that is."

Jameela, 23, is a secondary-school graduate working as a secretary in a local firm for a monthly salary of YR 10,000. She is single and lives with her uncle's family. Jameela does not make regular financial contributions, but buys some presents when she goes to visit her family in the countryside. "My salary barely covers my personal expenditure," said Jameela; "my father doesn't ask me to help the family financially."

She believes that the male head of the family should be wholly responsible for providing financial support. Out of Jameela's 10-member family, 5 are employed. They make differing levels of financial contributions to their family according to their salaries.

Those examples show a growing trend in Yemeni society. As women can generate an independent source of income, they have started to chip-in. That in itself is a formidable change in our socio-cultural values. But more importantly, once a woman starts to make make, and contributes to the needs of the household, her stature grows. What this means is that career women have a better say in the family affairs, let alone in their own lives.

In other words, enabling women to generate income independently of their male relatives is the best way to empower them. But to do that, of course, women need to be educated. That is where everything really starts.

* Athena is a graduate of Sociology.



UN Report Critical of Bahrain on Human Rights

Bahrain authorities vowed to fight political violence to defend stability and security of the country despite United Nations report about human rights abuses. "The acts of violence, arson attacks, killing and sabotage represents a violation of citizens' rights in Bahrain and threatens safety and security of society," a government official said. The official was responding to Geneva-based United Nations human rights body criticizing Bahrain for systematic human rights abuses, including torture in jails, extra-judicial killings and abuse of women in detention. The resolution adopted by 12 votes to 11 with one abstention, noted a serious deterioration in human rights in Bahrain. It asked the United Nations' supreme human rights body, the UN Human Rights Commission, to put alleged Bahraini abuses on its agenda.

Bahrain which had gone a long way towards economic and social development is anxious at the same time to maintain security and stability environment to protect and support these achievements, the Bahraini official said.

Iranian President Urges the West, Iraq to Stop Backing Opposition

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami urged Western countries and Iraq to put an end to their support for Iranian opposition groups. The People's Mujahedeen of Iran, the armed Iranian opposition movement, has training camps in neighboring Iraq, which Tehran charges are used as bases to launch operations into its territory in an attempt to overthrow the Islamic government.

Khatami also called on opposition members to come home if their hands are not soiled with the blood of their compatriots.

The United States and the European Union have accused the Islamic government of Iran of sponsoring terrorist groups around the world and of trying to kill members of the Iranian opposition abroad. Tehran strongly denies these accusations.

Syria's War on Corruption

Syria's official newspaper, *Tishrin*, mounted a campaign on corruption, abuse of power, and embezzlement by government officials which is regarded as an apparent sign that the authorities are cracking down.

"The war on corruption is a long-term task and a confrontation between the corrupt mafia and the defenders of the public interest," the paper wrote. The paper gave numerous examples of corruption in which senior officials are implicated.

Iraq Calls for Dialogue with Kurds

The Iraqi government called the Kurds for a dialogue aimed to solve the Kurdish issue peacefully. The interest of the Kurds lie inside the border of Iraq, *Al-Iraq* newspaper said.

The Iraqi army intervened in Iraqi Kurdistan in August 1996 to help Massoud Barazani's Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP, withstand the onslaught of the rival Patriotic Union Of Kurdistan, PUK, of Jalal Talabani. The intervention was Iraq's first since 1991, when uprising after the Gulf War led the Kurds towards gaining control of the region in defiance of Baghdad. After the intervention, Saddam's forces returned to their positions at the border of Kurdistan.

The two Kurdish groups are presently in an uneasy cease-fire brokered by the United States. Iraq accuses the United States of pressing the Kurdish parties to prevent them from engaging in a dialogue with Baghdad.

The Kurds have been, since 1991, enjoying a large level of autonomy in running their own affairs in northern Iraq. But most of the world, including the patrons of the Kurds, do not support an independent Kurdish state.

Saudi Arabia's Plan to Replace Expatriates with Saudi Citizens

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia re-iterated its determination to ensure that private sector jobs go to the citizens to reduce the Kingdom's dependence on foreign labor. "All companies concerned have been informed that they must continue implementing the cabinet's decision for the private sector to replace expatriates with Saudi citizens," Saudi Labor and Social Affairs Minister Musssaed Bin Mohammad Al Sinani said.

The new development plan of 1995-2000 set a goal of guaranteeing new jobs for nearly 650,000 Saudis over the five-year plan period. Most of the jobs will be newly created, but nearly a third will be replacements. The plan calls for progressively replacing foreign workers with 190,000 Saudis by 2000.

According to Labor Department statistics, nearly 167,000 qualified Saudis are expected to join the market by 2000. Another quarter of a million Saudis, who presently do not seek active employment, will also join the labor supply market.

Saudi Arabia has six million expatriates out of a total population of 18 million residents, according to unofficial statistics. The private sector will have a bigger role in the world's largest oil producer and exporter. The kingdom also vigorously pursues a privatization drive which includes all the government sectors. In addition, Saudi Arabia has allowed foreign investments in its economy.

India Asks Queen Elizabeth to Issue a Formal Apology

India's major communist party joined the call for Queen Elizabeth II to issue a formal apology for a civilian massacre during the British Raj. The call said the queen should not visit the Indian city of Amritsar, where the massacre occurred in 1919, without agreeing to make a formal apology. Some leading Sikh figures, including the chief minister of the state of Punjab, have called for an apology. Others, including religious leaders at Amritsar's Golden Temple, accepted the visit by the queen, seeing it as a gesture of reconciliation. Prime Minister Gojural urged the queen to avoid Amritsar, where the British army shot dead at least 379 civilians and wounded more than 1,300 at the Jallianwala Bagh ground in 1919.

Mukherjee, a minister in the state of west Bengal, also urged Britain to return to India the koh-i-noor diamond, a key part of Britain's Crown jewels. The call for the return of the precious jewel in the crown which some argue was obtained by trickery from a child prince, was rejected by a descendant of the British Viceroy of India who brought it to London. Thresa Wickman, 50, claimed that the diamond was legitimately given to her great grandfather, Viceroy John Lawrence, who ruled India from 1864 to 1868 and who carried it home in his pocket. "We absolutely refute the suggestion it should go back. It was a free gift from the Indian people to Queen Victoria," she said.

Erbakan Seeks the Help of European Countries

The Islamic Welfare Party, which the government of Messoud Yilmaz is trying to close down due to its anti-secular policies and beliefs, is seeking the help of European countries. The party appealed to France's far-right leader Jean Marie Le Pen for help to get the message across that the party's closure would be incompatible with democratic principles. "I shall start a campaign within the European parliament against Turkey on the issue," the *Hurriyat* newspaper quoted Le Pen as saying. Welfare leader Erbakan met secretly with Le Pen in an Aegean resort town.

The party is also translating into English and German a 215-page preliminary defense brief it already has submitted to the court to send to the European Human Rights Commission and members of the European parliament. Erbakan who resigned under pressure from the military in June, opposed Turkey's membership in the EU.

Meanwhile a new pro-Islamic party is being formed to overcome the possible closure.

Dubai Summit to Focus on Ports and Free Zones in the Region

The countries of the Gulf, Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea have been investing heavily in infrastructure development in a bid to revitalize the private sector and boost trade. But there is worry of over-investing and too much competition. To look into this issue, A Ports and Free Zones Summit will start in Dubai on November 23rd, as part of the influential Middle East Infrastructure Development Congress, MEIDC.

"Out of necessity, private investors are being wooed by governments to fund these new projects," explained Victor Hawken, chief operations officer at MEIDC. This summit will look at free trade zones in the Middle East and investigate what is really being offered to the investor, in terms of options, risks and financing; will compare results; and will attempt to assess the micro and macro economic significance of free zones for regional and global economies.

Countries and projects to be highlighted at the summit include Oman's challenge to Dubai as the Arabian peninsula's transshipment center, with the authorities in Oman awarding contracts to develop the container port of Salalah; the construction of a \$280 million container terminal in Aden; the Qeshm Island Free Zone in Iran, set up to attract foreign investment; the free trade zone project in Aqaba, Jordan; and the \$3 billion Sadiyat Island project which will see the Middle East's first storage zone in Abu Dhabi. The summit will also feature the tried and tested MEIDC formula of country focus round-table discussions, which will feature the UAE, Jordan, Oman and Yemen.

Netanyahu Pushes for War

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pushing the region into a full war. This is the conclusion reached by observers and politic-military analysts. By side-stepping the peace accords and pushing for the construction of Israeli colonies on Arab land, the Israeli Prime Minister is not leaving much room to talk about peace.

At the same time that the Israeli government is weakening the Palestinian Authority, it is asking it to stamp out terrorism. Netanyahu's now-on now off siege of the Palestinian people have also left little meaning to the peace talks. Each day, the siege costs the Palestinian people US\$8 million in lost trade and wages, and that the 1997 budget deficit will increase from US\$51 million to US\$400 million, or half of this year's budget.

US President Clinton, haunted by many scandals which could be mobilized by Jewish lobbyists, is unable to do much to stop Netanyahu's excesses.



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Cont'd from Page 1:

Kidnap Inc...

On Friday 15th August, six Italian tourists were released unharmed from captivity after two days of tense negotiations between the authorities and the captors from Al-Marazeek tribe. The six Italians were picked up at Moudia in the governorate of Abyan. They were driven for ten long hours in an arduous journey to the tribe's hideout high up the Kawr mountains, an area known as Maaraba-Iff, part of the governorate of Shabwa.

On the same area, a caravan of Italian tourists was shot at, wounding one of the group in the arm.

The leader of the heavily armed,

200-strong kidnap gang; the sheikh of Al-Marazeek, Sheikh Mohammed Haiderah Mash-hoor, (MHM) is a bitter man in his forties. The sheikh was orphaned at the tender age of 3. His father, among several others, was killed in a British air raid on their encampment during the colonial rule of southern Yemen. The little boy became homeless, and was left to wander with the bedouins. The sheikh had originally wanted to kidnap British citizens. The vendetta is still alive. He doesn't want to kill them, though, but wants the British government "to compensate for my father's death by providing essential services to

my deprived area."

Several tribes have resorted to kidnapping foreign nationals as a means for making their grievances known to the central government in Sana'a. Since the first kidnap incident during late February in 1992 by Khawlan tribes and up to this day, some 72 such abductions have taken place in Yemen. All kidnapped foreigners were released unharmed. The ruling authority tends to deal patiently with the kidnappers, and respond to some of the demands. This has only led to an escalation in such acts, and has evolved into a lucrative business. Tribesmen kidnap tourists, they get paid to release them. Then it is repeated all over again.

The tourism industry is the first to suffer, not to speak of Yemen's international image/reputation. In their livelihood, Al-Marazeek rely primarily on sheep and goat rearing even though pastures are relatively scarce. Unleavened bread, goats' milk and natural mountain honey form a major part of their daily diet. They are just starting to cultivate the land they decided to settle on. But with the severe scarcity of water and the difficulty in drilling wells in a rocky terrain, this prospect is still a very far way away.

To find out more about these people and the logic behind resorting to kidnapping foreign tourists, Yemen Times undertook a journey into the stronghold of the tribe. The journey consisted of several stages, passing through one of roughest mountainous

Some of the tribe's men: "Will follow the leader anywhere!"



Sheikh MHM Looks into the Horizon: What fate my people?



terrains in the country. The team was received and vetted by several tribal "checkpoints" along the way, until it reached the sheikh - MHM.

Like the earlier Yemen Times trip into the Khawlan hinterland, the Al-Marazeek kidnappers opened their heart for us. They killed two sheep and offered us a sumptuous meal of honey and meat. The sheikh poured his grief regarding the hardships endured by his people due to the neglect of the central government. Yemen Times was there to record what the sheikh had to say.

"We don't have any political motives, and we certainly don't receive any outside aid," said MHM refuting the official allegations. He rebuffed the other allegation of being saboteurs and traitors to the national cause.

"We feel we are left out," added MHM morosely; "many of our people were martyred defending the integrity, unity and dignity of the homeland." The sheikh even complained that the last parliamentary elections had passed them by. His people were not involved. In a way, they are not represented in parliament. "This has added insult to injury." This sentiment was echoed by several of the sheikh's fellow tribesmen. It is very frustrating, to say the least, for a tribe of about 10,000 people, to be left out and isolated from the rest of the country. What did the tribe want in the first place? What did the authorities promise? Have they honored their promises?

"We want to have a decent life. We need a health center, a school, clean drinking water, paved roads, electricity - all the things that make life worthwhile. We drink water from stagnant ponds. Our women and children become ill with no doctors to cure them. We don't even have a mosque to pray in."

Indeed, the place is rather barren and there is not one single project that was executed by the state for these people. The basic legitimacy of any regime, after all, is in serving the people. The system in Sana'a has yet to serve the Al-Marazeek tribe.

More specifically, the tribe has asked for two cars as compensation for one lost during the bloody events of January, 1986 in southern Yemen and another one lost during the civil war of 1994. They also asked for compensation and payment of salary arrears for the tribe's 200 sons who were suspended from the army following the civil war. Other conditions for releasing the captives included the building of a school, a health center, a water-supply project, and electric lines to the village. The sick have to be transported long distances to the nearest health center in Nisab, four hours away by car. It is particularly difficult for pregnant women. Some of the patients die on the way. "There

are about 2000 children in need of education to have a better life than ours," said the angry sheikh. He stressed that he and his men are "definitely not brigands, but ordinary people who are saddened for being deprived and neglected." He added, "We treated the Italians not as hostages, but as our respected guests. We don't have anything against Italians. Our grievance is with the government in Sana'a, which kept giving us hollow promises."

The sheikh said that he released the Italians not in return for a plethora of promises from the authorities, but "for the sake of the two innocent little children who were with them."

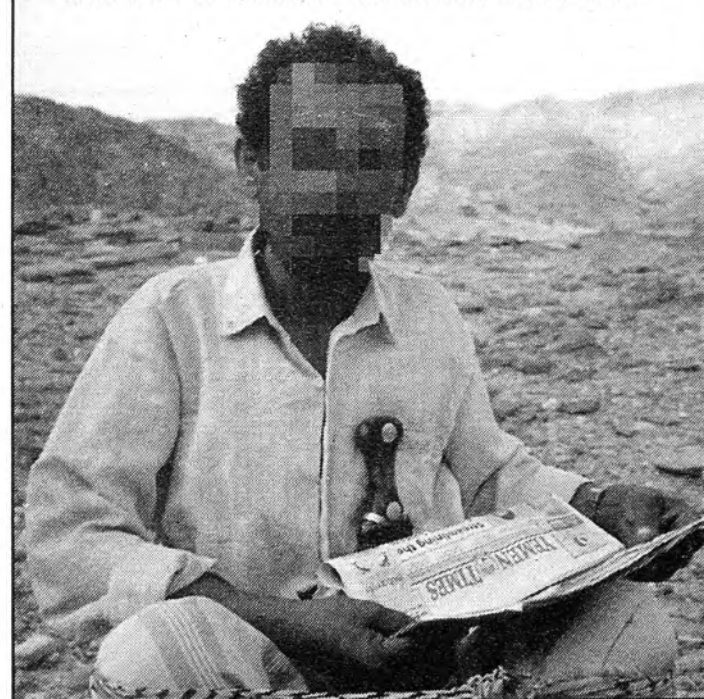
The sheikh was even apologetic. He apologized to the "friendly

Italian government and people for holding their fellow countrymen."

If their demands are not eventually met, they'll "resort again to kidnapping foreigners, especially British ones who must also apologize for their evil deeds committed during the colonial rule." It must also be borne in mind that the tribe took to kidnapping foreign nationals after all attempts to talk to the government and the political leadership fell on deaf ears. With disappointment and utter frustration, MHM said, "I put my tribe's needs and demands to just about everybody in authority in Sana'a, but it was all useless."

Unfortunately, it looks like Sana'a has to be jolted in order to pay attention to the citizens' needs.

The Second-in-command: "So this is the Yemen Times!"



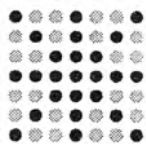
Embassy of India ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of India wishes to organize a get-together and reception in the last week of September 1997 for all the past Yemeni scholars who have either studied in India or have received training in India under the "Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program" or "General Cultural Scholarship Scheme" or "Cultural Exchange Program".

The formation of an Indo-Yemeni Friendship Association is also being considered on this occasion. All former Yemeni students/trainees who have studied or received training in India under any of the schemes mentioned above, or even as "self-financing" scholar/trainee, are requested to contact:

Mr. E. Martin,
First Secretary of the Embassy of India,
by 17-9-1997 on telephone No. (01) 268 543 or 268 115
or by fax No. (01) 243 439 or
by personally coming to the Embassy
at No. 12, Djibouti street, Sana'a.

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A Yemeni Poetess Makes Her Mark

Hoda Ali Abalan has just issued a collection of her poems in a small-size booklet. "It includes 25 of my better poems written during 1990-97," she said.

Hoda writes in a free-style poetry, which does not adhere to the standard classical norms of rhyming and meter. Many poets do not even accept free-style poets as true poets, but the number and vigor of the latter group have forced them on the poetic scene. The collection carries the title of "Half a Bow" which is taken from one of the poems. It tells the story of the oriental woman, half eager to

break loose, and yet contends herself to remain within the security of being taken care of. It tells the on-going struggle in women's minds and hearts. Hoda also tells a lot about herself through the many characters that come out in her poetry. "Confessions from the Other Side" is one such case. The poems are available in many bookstores, and it makes interesting reading for those who enjoy free-style poetry. It tells a bit the lot of Yemeni women at this stage of development.



نصف انحناءة



هدى علي أبلان

Prerequisites for Sustainable Agriculture

Most traditional development concepts and policies have led to impoverishment of two thirds of the people and destroyed the base resources that sustained them for centuries. The question is what is to be sustained? And more importantly, what are the prerequisites for sustainable agriculture. Where do we get the funds that we need to enhance sustainable agriculture and rural infrastructure, investment in human capital and decentralization power. All these need money to implement.

In order to obtain Sustainable Agricultural Development (SAD) and put it into operation, we have to first know what are the reasons for the unsustainable agricultural development? Presently in developing countries many agricultural



development policies led to unsustainable agriculture, fishery, forestry and farming practices.

In developing countries, the main reasons for unsustainability in agricultural practices are lack of access to land, inputs and other resources; lack of awareness among policy-makers; lack of appropriate technologies which are environmentally sound; lack of training, knowledge and information.

These issues are to be addressed at all levels. At household level, due to lack of access to productive resources, poverty and its consequences are overwhelming. Thus, households adopted strategies for survival, e.g. over-exploiting natural resources for meeting immediate food security needs. Today, even this is beyond the reach of many rural poor. In turn this leads to degradation, deforestation, soil erosion and decline in water availability and quality, too.

Hence, an understanding of the household and rural poor perception and decisions on resource allocation, production practices and consumption, is essential for government strategies, policy formulation and actions to promote sustainability.

At the community level, the main issue is to clarify the concept of "Common Property". A common property with socio-cultural based, local institutional arrangements, is capable of managing natural resources on a sustainable basis. Hence local communities and NGOs should be given the responsibility to plan for themselves on environmentally sound ways of managing their area.

At the national policy level, the reasons for unsustainable agricultural practices, are due to faults by policy-makers who have top-sided priorities in money allocations. They are often environmental inappropriate, ill-informed, and short-sighted. Hence, the decisions are poor.

At the international level, globalization is emerging. National economies are increasingly and progressively integrated. Also an international labor market is developing. However, the issues of "incremental costs" of sustainability and debt burdens should be given priority in order to implement sustainable policies. Industrial countries, for example, should do more to provide debt relief, technology transfer, and must open up their markets for the developing nations' products. Global perspectives mean that the resource flows and policies among households, regions within a country and among rural and urban areas must be brought into account when developing sustainable policies.

In developing countries, research systems has not taken sustainability as a major objective. Any new technologies introduced by research institutions should be proven practical by showing the benefits to the farmer. Otherwise, new technologies cannot be introduced or accepted by the farmers. Therefore, research institutions should focus on practical applications while integrating sustainability concepts into agricultural development policies. This has been the missing link in the development process, so far.

By:
Abdulkadir M. Al-Ariqi
Environment/Development
Consultant

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**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 3-9-97.****(Independent)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) International Lawyers Express Concern for Jailed Opposition Figures
- 2) Opposition Sources Deny Release of 120 Prisoners Announced by Ministry of Interior
- 3) Public Sit-In in Dhali' in Protest Against Unlawful Arrests
- 4) Arrested Yemeni Women in India Released on Bail of \$6,000
- 5) Towards his End of Term, British Ambassador Pays Farewell Visit to Aden

Article Summary:**Bulgarian Expert Abducted**

In response to the recent arrest by the Bulgarian authorities of a Yemeni student in Bulgaria, his Belharith tribe in Shabwa has abducted a Bulgarian expert working for the B.G.M oil company. The incident took place on 27th August.

Al-Izzi Eid, 37, was accused, along with another Arab man, of leading a secret Islamic extremist group. According to the Bulgarian authorities, the leadership of the Islamist group is composed of one Yemeni and three other Arabs. It boasts a membership of more than 130 Bulgarian Muslims. The Bulgarian expert was later released by the tribesmen upon receiving assurances that their jailed kinsman is in good health and unharmed.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 4-9-97.**[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Excluding Non-PGC Figures from Recent Top Appointments in Ministry of Education Arouses Resentment Among Educationists
- 2) Adenis Angered by Forced Closure of Mosques Immediately After Every Prayer Session
- 3) Researchers Warn Against Expired Canned Food Widely Sold in Yemeni Groceries
- 4) Health Authorities in Aden Seize Large Quantity of Expired Beer with 5.5% Alcohol Sold as Non-Alcoholic
- 5) Fishermen in Hadhramaut Ask Government to Compensate them for Boats Nationalized During YSP Rule

Article Summary:**Women & the Media by Summia Al-Sharjabi**

Many envisage women as only writers, journalists or, by most, as preparing TV and radio programs. Therefore, acting or news casting become completely out of the question. Blind adherence to the values of the West can lead to straying from the right path. It is the duty of the top Muslim thinkers clergy should steer the nation towards a more modern outlook in this respect. Islamic Sharia is quite flexible and adaptable for every age and era. Women should participate in all fields of the mass media, within an Islamic framework. We must search for, and apply, the true essence of Islam regarding this matter.

AL-WAHDA: Sana'a (Weekly) 3-9-97.**(Official)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President Sends Message of Condolence to Queen Elizabeth on the Death of Princess Diana
- 2) Ministerial Committee Formulates Draft Law on Local Authority
- 3) Seminar on Yemeni-Saudi Cooperation to be Held by Center of Future Studies
- 4) Minister of Agriculture Calls for Participating in Gulf Agricultural Exhibition in Al-Shariqa

Article Summary:**Reforms & Citizens' Rights - editorial**

The government wants to accelerate the reform process, which has become an almost impossible dream for many Yemenis. The Prime Minister seeks to impose more discipline in the executive organs in order to enhance the government's credibility. The necessary measures to reduce some of the reform's temporary negative effects must go hand-in-hand with the reform process. Out of patriotism, the Yemeni citizens are enduring much hardship. However, they have the right to be supported and assisted in bearing the burdens of reform.

AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 4-9-97.**(Yemeni Socialist Party)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Terrorism Threatens Tourism in Yemen
- 2) Jailed Members of League of Sons of Yemen Go on Hunger Strike
- 3) Mother of Arrested Opposition Figure is Paralyzed
- 4) YSP Participates in Arab Gathering for Solidarity with Libyan People



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

Article Summary:**The Scenario of Arrests by Ameen M. Sharaf**

Most of the questions out to the arrested opposition people are political in nature, not actually related to the explosions. The interrogators concentrate on the political role of the YSP in boycotting the parliamentary elections. The ruling authority is trying to divide and discredit the YSP. This shows that the YSP still represents a challenging factor in the Yemeni political equation. The party should prepare itself for more aggression on part of the ruling authority. The tribal nature of those in power is intolerant towards other opinions.

VOICE of the OPPOSITION: Hadhramaut (Weekly) 3-9-97.**(Issued by 6 opposition parties)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Seminar on Human Rights in Mukalla
- 2) Preparatory Committee for Yemeni Human Rights Organization No Longer Legally Valid
- 3) League of Sons of Yemen: No Prisoners have been Released
- 4) PSO Search for Fugitive Opposition Leader in and Around Seion

Article Summary:**Army Tanks in Ataq**

Tanks and other armored vehicles were deployed at the main gateways of Ataq, the center of the governorate of Shabwa, on Wednesday 27th August. Some of the tanks were stationed at Wadi Ataq with their cannons directed toward the town. The townspeople were angered for the security operation being carried out by the army. "It is as if a state of war exists in the area," one frightened citizen commented.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 4-9-97.**(Yemen Armed Forces)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Meeting Belgian Parliamentary Delegation, the President; "Democracy is an attitude and a path that we'll never leave."
- 2) Council of Ministers Endorses Draft Law to Amend Production & Consumption Taxes
- 3) IMF Provides Yemen with Credit Facilities of \$600 Million
- 4) Status of Over 45,000 Government Employees to be Reviewed to Reduce Over-Staffing
- 5) Bomb Hoax Causes 3-Hour Delay of Yemenia Airplane to Going Rome & London

Article Summary:**Gold Seized**

Security personnel in Sana'a Airport have seized 1.5kg of gold before being smuggled by a woman traveler. The woman aroused the suspicion of the officers by being nervous and going to the toilet several times. She was taken to Al-Thawra Hospital where doctors found the gold hidden inside her stomach. On questioning the woman, it transpired that the real owner of the gold was in the airport, but disappeared when she got caught.

AL-UROOBA: Sana'a (Weekly) 3-9-97.**(Nasserite Democratic Party)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Journalists Call for Establishing Association to Protect them from PGC Takeover of Journalists' Syndicate
- 2) 8-Member Gang Tried in Hawta, Lahaj - Gold Worth YR 1,700,000 from 20 Houses Stolen
- 3) Youth Kills his Mother in Taiz
- 4) Heavy Rain Causes Extensive Damages in Bajil, Hodeida

Article Summary:**A Smuggler Dies**

An alcohol smuggler was shot dead by the police after a car chase along the Jarahi-Zabed road. The dead was with a gang of smuggler taking alcoholic drinks from Taiz to Hodeida. The chase started when the smugglers refused to heed the police warning to stop their car. According to police sources, the gang started the shoot-out and they responded in self defense. Alcohol is strictly forbidden in Yemen.

AL-TAJAMMU': Aden (Weekly) 1-9-97.**(Yemeni Unitary Congregation Party)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Show Trials for Arrested Opposition Figures in Closed Court Sessions
- 2) To Lower Dollar Exchange Rate, Central Bank "Pumps" \$8 Million into Local Market
- 3) Ministry of Petroleum Denies Intention to Raise Fuel Prices
- 4) \$2 Million Losses by Coastal Fishing Establishment
- 5) Public Protests Against Unlawful Arrests Escalate in Several Governorates

Article Summary:**Rotten rice in Aden**

The Ukrainian ship Balikhah is loaded with more than 5,000 tons of putrid rice, and has been docking at Aden port for more than three weeks. The port authorities have prevented the unloading of the consignment, and ordered it to be returned to Vietnam where it came from. A quantity of about 900 tons has already been unloaded. Tests done indicated that the rice is not fit for human consumption.

AL-HAQIQA: Aden**(Fortnightly) 4-9-97.****(Independent)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Undeclared State of Emergency Exists in Yemen
- 2) The President; "Partisan elements are behind the explosions"

- 3) UN Discusses Yemen's Human Rights Dossier
- 4) Prisoner Dies During Interrogation in Aden
- 5) Yemenia Airlines to Sell 3 Airplanes and Make Redundant 300 Ground Employees & 70 Pilots

Article Summary:**'Phone Tapping & Bugging**

Informed sources have indicated that a special PSO cell has been set up in each governorate to monitor 'phone lines. Preliminary lists of citizens, whose 'phones are to be tapped, have been prepared. The monitoring will cover the offices of opposition parties as well as independent and partisan newspapers. These cells have been provided with modern, noise-free, and interference-free bugging devices. Equipment to intercept fax messages are also supplied. This contradicts Article 52 of the Constitution, which guarantees the confidentiality of all forms of personal communication. Telephone tapping can only be done through court orders.

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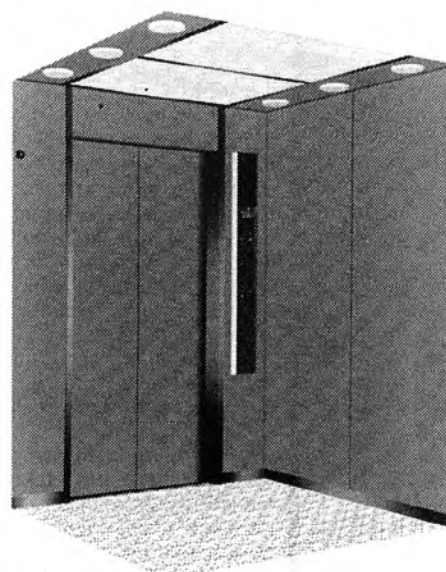
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Ahli Summer Camp Concluded: The Right Beginning

The closing ceremony was over. The participants and invited guests left the club. But there is one thing that will always be remembered by all those who attended the Al-Ahli summer camp. All the youngsters, girls and boys, who sang in different languages to welcome the guests, have shown that the efforts made by the organizing committee were very successful and fruitful. This is the right beginning to establish a sound foundation for the future of Yemeni youths. When we arrived at the club to attend the ceremony, we found that there is no closed hall, but a big canopy to protect the people from the Sun. This indicates the lack of facilities. The ambitions, however, are boundless. The organizers aim to support and raise the awareness of the youngsters regarding sport, culture, and education during the summer vacation. To encourage the club's organizing committee for its huge success, the Minister of Youths and Sport, Dr. Abdulwahab Rawih announced the building of



a training hall on the same spot were the ceremony was held. This came in recognition of the great attention given to the youngsters by Al-Ahli Club. Yemen's boys and girls represent the basic foundation for creating a healthy society in this country. Congratulations for these efforts and this right beginning.

Tennis Training Course Started

A tennis training course was started on Thursday 4th September at the Yemeni Olympic Center in Sana'a. The course is organized by the Yemeni Olympic Committee and sponsored by the International Olympic Solidarity. The International tennis expert, Mr. Peter Unirisky is lecturing at the course, which will last for 10 days with the participation of 25 trainees from Sana'a, Aden,

Hodeida, Taiz, and Hadhramaut. It will be concluded on Saturday 13th September.

The inauguration of the course was attended by Mr. Hussain Al-Awadhi, the Secretary-General of the Yemeni Olympic Committee; Mr. Abdulhameed Al-Saedi, the Director of Sports Clubs and Associations at the Ministry of Sport and Youths; and Dr. Mohammed Hajar, the President of the Tennis Association.

Mr. Al-Saedi said to Yemen Times, "I'd like to express my satisfaction with organizing such activities, which are useful in widening the popularity of this game to spread in other areas beside Sana'a and Aden."

A positive development is manifested in the participation of females in such training courses. An increasing number of Yemeni females are getting involved in sport activities. Two girls from Taiz are taking part in this course. Many other females took part in previous sport events.



Chess Championship Started in Taiz

The Taiz Chess Championship was started on Friday 5th September in Al-Sahha Sports Club. The event is sponsored by the Yemeni General Chess Association. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mr. Najji Ahmed, the Director of Clubs and Associations, and several sports officials in Taiz. Four clubs are participating in this championship: Al-Sahha, Al-Saqar, Al-Tali'a, and Al-Rasheed. The preliminary results are as follows:

* Al-Tali'a met Al-Saqar and got a 2-2 draw. The match was the strongest in the first round. It was characterized by the carefully planned movements.

* Al-Sahha defeated Al-Rasheed 3-1. The match was characterized by the correct movements of Al-Sahha players, they lacked the necessary experience. This had confused them and led to Al-Rasheed winning the game.

The championship will be concluded on Tuesday 9th September.



Asian Table-Tennis Championship: Our National Team Wins & Loses

The Yemeni national table-tennis team has returned home on Sunday 7th September. They participated in the Sixth Asian Junior Table-Tennis Championship. It was held in India during 1-6 September. This championship is considered as the largest sports gathering due to the big number of participant countries. The Yemeni team gave a good performance. The Yemeni players exhibited a good level of skill and fitness, despite the lack of facilities and funds and the short period of training. Yemeni players were able to defeat their peers from Uzbekistan, Syria, and Nepal on Thursday 4th September. However, Yemeni players lost to Indian and New Zealand teams. Thus, they were forced out of the pre-finals qualifiers.

Cricket Results

The match the previous week, 29 August, between the Lion and Jambiyah Cricket Club and the ACC was an outstanding victory for the Lion and was well received by the supporters and by Rothmans Royals the sponsors of the L&JCC.

The match score by L&JCC of 266 for 7 in 25 overs against a total score of 78 all out for the ACC set some new records for the Yemen cricket league. The match total of 266 runs is the highest to date. The score by Caspar Ridley was 116, not out, in 44 balls and the 100 up in 40 balls is by far the fastest century scored in the Yemen league and resulted in the award to Caspar of man of the match.

Wa'ad... New Squash Champion

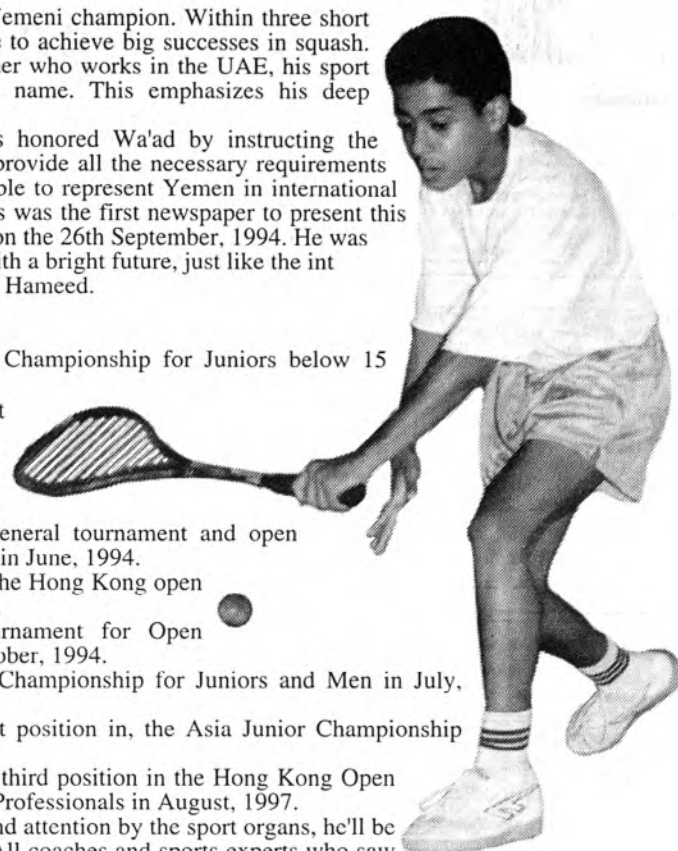
Wa'ad Hamood is a 15-year-old Yemeni champion. Within three short years, this youngster has been able to achieve big successes in squash. Although Wa'ad lives with his father who works in the UAE, his sport participations are all in Yemen's name. This emphasizes his deep Yemeni roots.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has honored Wa'ad by instructing the Ministry of Youths and Sports to provide all the necessary requirements for this budding champion to be able to represent Yemen in international squash competitions. Yemen Times was the first newspaper to present this champion to the public in its issue on the 26th September, 1994. He was presented as a promising athlete with a bright future, just like the international champion boxer Naseem Hameed.

Wa'ad's sports record is as follows:

- Champion of the UAE Open Championship for Juniors below 15 years of age in June of 1994.
- Champion of, and got the first position in, the UAE Open Championship for Men in June, 1994.
- He gained the title of the Youngest Participant in the general tournament and open championships during 1992-93 in June, 1994.
- He gained the first position in the Hong Kong open Championship in August, 1994.
- Champion of the UAE Tournament for Open Championships for Men in October, 1994.
- Champion of the Abu Dhabi Championship for Juniors and Men in July, 1997.
- Champion of, and got the first position in, the Asia Junior Championship held in Malaysia in July, 1997.
- Champion of Asia and got the third position in the Hong Kong Open Championship for Juniors and Professionals in August, 1997.

If Wa'ad finds the necessary care and attention by the sport organs, he'll be able to achieve greater successes. All coaches and sports experts who saw Wa'ad play agree that he has all the necessary characteristics to be able to achieve advanced positions in international squash championships.



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Yet Another Yemeni Grabs a World Sports Championship

Wa'ad Hamood Al-Hashemi is the World Champion for Squash in the Classic Plate category. Wa'ad, representing Yemen, was able to snatch the title in the tournament held in Malaysia last month.

Wa'ad, 15, also competed in the Asia Youth Squash Championship held in Hong Kong. He came in second place. Given the impressive performance of the young athlete, the Indian Sports Federation invited him to join in the on-going celebrations on the 50th anniversary of India's independence. On a similar note, the Iranian Squash Union invited the young Al-Hashemi to participate in the matches of that country.

Unfortunately, Wa'ad does not have a sponsor. Even his participation in the Southeast Asian games were made possible through a last-minute intervention by President Ali Abdullah Saleh who ordered the Ministry of Youth and Sports to foot the bill. "I would like to use this occasion to thank the President



as well as the minister of youth and sports and all my supporters," he said. Wa'ad though representing Yemen in the games, actually lives and trains in the United Arab Emirates. He also thanked the Emirates for its support and encouragement. "They treat me as one of their own," he disclosed.

By: Jamal Al-Awadhi,
 Sports Editor, Yemen Times.

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