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## What Is the Exact Mandate of the PSO? The Regime Moves to Break Unions

Over the last few weeks, the Political Security Office (PSO) has done all it can to break unions. The tactics employed were illegal and immoral. In a couple of cases, the tactics were simply dirty and disgusting as they reflect the totalitarian days.

The union of employees at the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) were trying to negotiate better terms. Spearheading that drive was the CBY union leader Dirhem Abdul-Fattah. During the negotiations, Mr. Abdul-Fattah lost his calm and shouted angry words at the Governor of the CBY, Mr. Ahmed Al-Samawi, and the PSO Representative at the bank.

The differences between the union and the CBY management got out of hand could have been resolved within proper legal channels. But 'No!', the PSO had to intervene. The PSO picked up the union leader and jailed him for a week and kept him incommunicado. Many human rights organizations appealed to the PSO to see light and let go of the man. That did not happen until the unionist was 'properly' punished.

In another case, the union of teachers is being brought down to its knees by employing smear tactics. The fight for the rights of teachers, who are clearly underpaid, was presented by the state authorities as a political struggle between the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah).

Indeed, there is a political struggle between the PGC and Islah to win control over this important union. But why does the PSO come into the picture? And on the side of the PGC?

There are many other examples of activities by PSO against individuals and groups that try to wield influence in society. In essence, the mandate of the PSO has become to employ any means to neutralize the growth of any power base that would compete and/or defy the present regime. The PSO works to intimidate or simply break any person who seeks to wield influence.

Such a policy, of course, goes against the very grain of democracy and the peaceful transfer of power among different groups in society.

This behavior has prompted many pro-democracy thinkers of Yemen to demand a clear specification of the mandate of the PSO. In many democratizing societies, such organizations have simply been dismantled or at least civilianized.

For Yemen's political evolution to make sense, the country needs to re-consider the role and mandate of the PSO, and why it should be directly linked to the president.

## New Landmark in Corruption

A virtual conversation between Prime Minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, and one of his aides.

Aide: Mr. Prime Minister. I have some good news and some bad news.  
PM: Start with the bad news.

Aide: Some military people in Hadhramaut are selling a children's school in Seiyoun.  
PM: What do you mean? Who can dare do that?

Aide: As I said. They have put up the building and compound of Al-Jamaheer School in downtown Seiyoun as real estate for sale.

PM: And what is the good news?  
Aide: The pupils are not part of the deal.

The Prime Minister jumped out of his seat and immediately instructed the governor of Hadhramaut to intervene to stop the deal. The governor reported back that he had succeeded in stopping the military men from selling the school, but was too late to stop the sale of a long beachline in Mukallah.

Yemen Times hails the Prime Minister for his swift and decisive action.

## Arab Parliamentary Conference in Sanaa in March

Delegations representing the Arab parliaments (lower/upper houses) will start descending on Sanaa in two weeks. The agenda for the 16-18 March gathering of Arab legislators includes talks on internal political evolution, role of the legislature, relations with the executive/judicial branches of authority, inter-Arab coop-

eration, etc. The delegates will also address what one Yemeni parliamentarian termed as "the colonization of the Gulf region by the USA". Yemen's House of Deputies (lower house) will organize the Sanaa events of the program, while the Consultative Council will arrange the Aden events.

## Consultative Council in Foreign Offensive

H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council (Upper House), leaves for Cairo on March 9th at the head of a delegation on a 4-day official visit to Egypt. "We are interested in learning from the Egyptian experience. We will also work to strengthen the cooperation that already exists

between our two countries," he told the Yemen Times. From Cairo, one of the CC delegates, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, will go to Germany where he will participate in the Fourth Kronberg Talks. Senior officials and intellectuals from the region, Europe and the USA are participating in the talks.

## Yemen Times: More Influence

Beyond its role as the newspaper that most affects state decisions inside Yemen, the Yemen Times has seen a steady rise in its international presence. The number of persons accessing its website (<http://www.y.net/yementimes>) has been phenomenal. During the period 1st October 1997 thru February 1998, there have been some 15,000 hits.

But that is not all. The number of feedback messages received on the Yemen Times e-mail address ([yementimes@y.net.ye](mailto:yementimes@y.net.ye)) has also increased - rising to several dozens a day. Though the editors of the Yemen Times read all these messages, they regrettably cannot respond to all of them. Readers will please understand.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### East Is East, and West Is West...

I was part of the recent official visit to four Asian countries - China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. That was not my first trip to any of these countries, but it was my first formal encounter. I want to use my most recent experience in the East to draw parallels with my many experiences with Western countries. After all, I am a regular visitor of Euro-American countries.

#### a) Human Rights:

During this recent trip to Asia, as part of the official delegation, I was asked about my job at the Consultative Council. As soon as I started talking about my effort to promote full respect for human rights and liberties and the drive to empower NGOs, my hosts often lost interest. I can imagine what goes through their heads. They never imagined an Arab from Yemen would come to them to talk about human rights and liberties.

In most cases, the host immediately changes the topic to some mundane issues, in a clear indication they do not want the conversation to continue on the subject. In one instance, my counterpart host simply left me. He just went away.

In many similar instances in the West, the other side would show decidedly more interest, and even encouragement.

#### b) Gifts:

During all my travels in the West, I never received gifts. It is just not part of the deal. People in the West give gifts to friends, not to officials visiting from other countries. And even when they do go out of their way to give something, it is often symbolic like a pin that carries twin flags (representing the two countries) or something of that nature.

During the two weeks of travels to the East, the official Yemeni delegation was showered with expensive gifts. The Yemenis had also carried gifts from Yemen.

The problem started when I refused to take my share of the gifts. I explained that it was not proper, in my views. That was a source of lots of remorse from my Yemeni colleagues. I still do not understand, let alone accept, taking 'gifts' from other governments, even if it is done openly.

#### c) Personal Pleasures:

Asian hosts will go out of their way to make their guests enjoy themselves. They would help arrange entertainment programs around personal interests. This is done on a routine basis, and there is nothing to it.

Many of my colleagues in the delegation took advantage of this courtesy. But it would be unthinkable in the West for government officials to help in this way.

One continues to learn in life. And the little things I have learned from my recent Asian trip have added tremendously to my understanding of how things work and how issues are perceived over there. There are, of course, many things in which our Eastern hosts enjoy a lot more merits and advantages than their Western counterparts.

But that is the theme of another editorial.

The Publisher  
عبد العزيز السقاف

## YEMEN TIMES

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### Yemen Sends 30 Tons of Help to Iraq

A group of private Yemeni businesses and charity organizations have pooled resources to send a new shipment of 30 tons to Iraq's people. The main contribution came from the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies which donated 18 tons. Other contributors include the Yemeni Red Crescent Society, the People's Charity Society, and the Reform Charitable Welfare Society. The planeload will be delivered over the next few days.

### Officers in Charge of Yemen on Visit

Over the last few days, Foreign Ministry officials in charge of Yemen in Canada, the USA and the UK arrived the country.

Mr. George Wieringa of CIDA, Canada arrived in Sanaa on the 27th. His meetings are with the Central Bank of Yemen, the Ministry of Vocational Training, and the Ministry of Trade and Supply. He will also meet senior Canadian Oxy people to discuss joint financing of community-related projects.

Mr. Jonathan Owen, Deputy Director of the Near East/Asia in Washington DC arrived in Sanaa on February 27th. He left on March 2nd. His visit was aimed at consolidating the useful effort of USIS in Yemen.

Mr. Trevor Witton, Yemen's Desk Officer at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, is on a familiarization visit during 1-5/3/1998. He meets with officials in the Foreign Ministry and the Chamber of Commerce.

### Another Bomb Goes Off in Aden

Just before the evening prayers at around 8 pm on Saturday, February 28, the sound of an almighty explosion reverberated around the Mansoorah residential quarter in Aden.

One man died and three were seriously injured when a what is thought to be a time bomb went off in an old cemetery near Al-Rahman mosque.

Sheikh Moqbil Al-Wadi'i, representing a puritanical religious sect associated with the northern tribes of Sanaa, Saada, and Hajja, was delivering a sermon at Al-Rahman mosque when the bomb exploded.

Intensive investigations are underway to find the exact cause of the blast and apprehend the its perpetrators.

### Japanese Grant for Handicapped

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan is to give a grant to Al-Eman Institute for the Rehabilitation of Handicapped Children in Sanaa. Agreement to this effects will be signed today, Monday March 2nd by Japanese Ambassador to Yemen and the director of the Institute.

With this grant, the Institute is expected to buy equipment for training children with hearing impediments.

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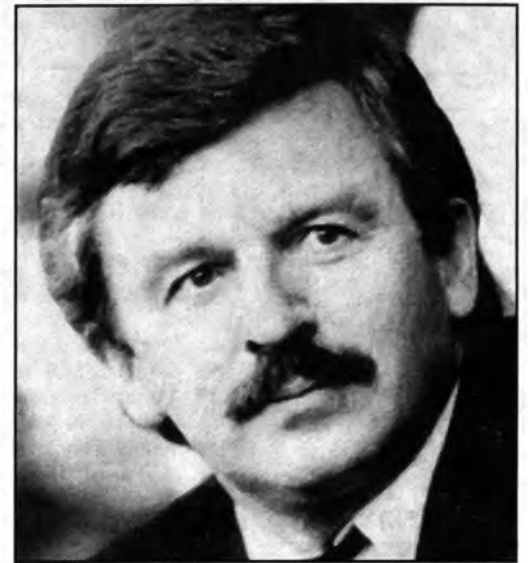
## Germans Keen to Develop Business with Yemen

A high-ranking business delegation of the German Arab Association will be visiting Yemen from March 7th through 14th. The delegation is made up of 42 persons representing a wide range of German business interested in starting and/or developing with Yemen. The group is headed by Mr. Jurgen W. Mollmann, President of the German Arab Association and Member of the German Parliament. Mr. Mollmann is a former Federal Minister of Economics.

Dr. Helga von Strachwitz, Ambassador of Germany in Yemen, indicated that the visit comes in response to an invitation from President Ali Abdullah Saleh. "This is actually one of the fruits of the state visit to Germany by President Ali Abdullah Saleh in September 1997," she said.

Yemen and Germany enjoy an exceptionally good relationship. "Our political understanding and aid cooperation is excellent. But our business relations can be strengthened," said an official at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry.

This is exactly the objective of the visit.



## Envoy Explains US Policy in Gulf Crisis

Within his tour of the region, Mr. David Newton, former US Ambassador to Yemen, paid a one-day visit to Yemen. On Thursday February 26th, he paid a call on Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Editor of the Yemen Times, to explain the US views, and to listen to Al-Saqqaf's assessment.

Mr. Newton stated that in all the Arab countries he had visited, he found consensus on the need for full compliance by Iraq to the UN Security Council resolutions. He did point to popular resistance against the possibility of the US military attack.

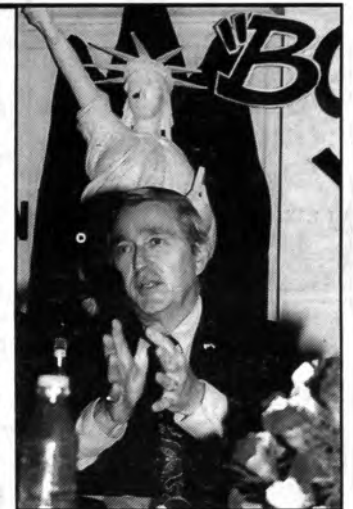
He insisted that the objective of the US is full compliance. He did express doubt that Iraq would comply fully. "The experience with the Iraqi regime so far is not encouraging."

Regarding the legal authority under which the US military operation is taking place, Mr. Newton said, "The US believes they are authorized by the existing UN Security Council resolutions."

The possibility of use of mass destruction weapons against Iraq is there, though the American envoy indicated "it will not be done unless agreed upon by the highest level officials."

The US had used chemical weapons in Vietnam and Laos. Both Napalm and Agent Orange were dropped on the Ho Chi Minh trail as well as different parts of Indochina.

Professor Al-Saqqaf stated that the Yemeni people are fully opposed to the American threat of violence against the Iraqi people. He also expressed his



conclusion that neither the Iraqi regime nor the US administration cares about the plight of the Iraqi people.

Finally he pointed to the lack of sensitivity of US actions and announcements regarding Arab interests and feelings.

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Salah Al-Ajam:

# “Differences between Yemen and Saudi Arabia on the border issue are not insurmountable.”

Sheikh Salah Al-Ajam is a member of the Consultative Council's political Committee. Hailing from Matabish, Saada, Al-Ajam, 61, occupied several important posts including member of the Shourah Council in 1971, member of the Cooperatives Administrative Authority in 1975, member of the People's Council in 1978, Secretary-General of the Local Councils in Saada in 1980, again in the Shourah Council in 1988, and governor of Lahaj. Sheikh Al-Ajam talked to Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, about the concerns of the people of Saada and the country in general. The fruit of their conversation is the following enlightening interview. Excerpts:

**Q: What has the Political Committee of the Consultative Council been able to achieve so far?**  
**A:** The Political Committee has the largest number of members among the Consultative Council's other committees. We are currently in the process of drawing out an action plan and an annual program. It is all to make the Consultative Council more active, politically. During the last couple of months, we held meetings with a number of ambassadors and officials to acquaint them with the political activities of the Consultative Council.

**Q: Do you have any links with your counterparts in other Arab countries?**  
**A:** Yes, it is very important to get to know about the experiences of similar assemblies in other Arab countries. A Consultative Council delegation had already visited Jordan's upper house or Council of Notables. Similar visits are planned to Egypt's Shourah Council and Morocco's Council of Notables. We are basically trying to benefit from the experiences of others and present to them our own endeavors.

**Q: There seems to be slow progress made by your committee. why is that?**  
**A:** This is true to a certain extent because our committee's President, Mr. Yahya AL-Mutawakkil had a spinal injury and had to stay away from work for the last three months. Also, the committee rapporteur, Mr. Ahmed Al-Salami is abroad for medical treatment. We are now starting our activities in earnest, with all the members present.

**Q: You are also a member of the Yemeni border committee.**

**What has this committee achieved so far?**  
**A:** A lot has been achieved, actually. We are still looking for common grounds for the starting point of the border with Saudi Arabia at Ras Mi'waj in the Red Sea. Our main task is in the western region, which starts at Ras Mi'waj and ends with Mount Thaar. All the committee members made field visits to see the border area and exchange opinions. An agreement was reached in the last meeting in Aden that the committee's president would make the necessary contacts to set a date for a meeting with our Saudi counterparts.

**Q: Are you optimistic of reaching a satisfactory resolution for the border conflict with Saudi Arabia?**  
**A:** Let me tell you something. There is no real conflict. The differences between the two sides are not very big. They are certainly not insurmountable. So far as our work in the western region is concerned, yes, I am very optimistic. We are proceeding with the implementation of what had been agreed on in the memorandum of understanding.

**Q: Could you now tell us about Saada, its people and their problems and needs?**  
**A:** Well, Saada has a population of around 480,000. As a border governorate, Saada is acquiring an added importance. Our most pressing problem is water. People used to drill 30 m deep, find water, and operate the well for 24 hours a day. Now we have to drill to a depth of 300 m looking for water. Some wells are already going dry and a few farms were abandoned for lack of water. Studies made by Dutch experts indicate that underground water is now almost 400 m deep, and its

level is dropping threateningly. Rain water is not replenishing the aquifers fast enough. Life in Saada is closely associated with agriculture. If that ceases because of lack of water for irrigation, then all life in Saada is finished. People are using simple man-made reservoirs to store rain water until the following season. There are three small dams in Saada. Another problem is that of electricity. The region is not fully electrified. The government is providing us with 3 MW electric generators that will supply the whole of Saada. There remains the President's directive to extend the electricity network to six more directorates in the governorate of Saada. The necessary cables and other equipment will be imported soon.

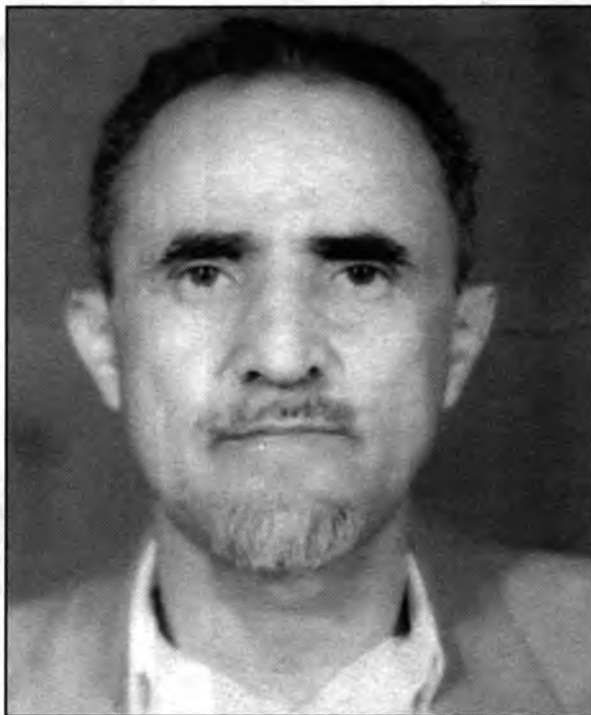
**Q: What about paved roads? How available are they?**  
**A:** The most important road in Saada is the ring road which connects six directorates together. More roads and bridges are needed to make few remote areas more accessible. The Minister of Construction will visit the area soon to assess the situation on the ground.

**Q: Are health and education services available for are people in the governorate?**  
**A:** There are enough schools, but the level of education is not that good. Better qualified teachers are needed. Sometimes secondary-school graduates are appointed to teach at secondary schools. Even university graduates must finish some sort of course to be able to teach. So really the education system in Saada is in urgent need of reform. Female education is on the increase because young girls are now more encouraged to go to schools and there are also more schools being opened for girls throughout Saada. Health care services, on the other hand, are generally below par. The Jumhoori Hospital in Saada, for instance, needs a lot of support in terms of funds, equipment and qualified staff. There is also Al-Salam Hospital which was built with Saudi funds. Smaller health centers exist in several Saada directorates, but they are in great need of staffing.

**Q: Is Saada still the gateway of Yemeni immigrants into Saudi Arabia?**  
**A:** Immigration into Saudi Arabia is far less than it was before because of this new regulations and restrictions.

**Q: How is the state of agriculture now in Saada?**  
**A:** This season in particular, the crop yield is down and the prices, especially of fruits such as oranges, grapes, and tangerines, are quite less than normal.

**Q: What about the smuggling of goods into or from Saudi Arabia? Is it still prevalent?**  
**A:** This was so in the past. Smug-



very rare, indeed. people. We never have sectarian trouble.

**Q: Do you have any kidnapping incidents, of foreigners?**

**A:** It only happened once - a European man was abducted and released on the same day. This is also attributable to the high moral standards of the people. It is considered quite immoral to force a person against his will to become a "guest." People in Saada are far from being aggressive and refrain from making ill-gains. Besides, they are quite busy tending to their farms and trades.

**Q: Do Saada women play a major role in public life?**

**A:** During the last parliamentary elections and the registration procedure which preceded it, many women, even in remote rural areas, actively took part. The level of awareness among women in Saada is quite amazing. Now the people, men and women are re-preparing for the local elections.

**Q: Are all political parties represented in Saada?**

**A:** Political plurality do exist in Saada. The People's General Congress, Islah, the Socialist Party, Al-Haqq, AL-Baath, and the Nasserites are all active in Saada. The influence and representation, however, differ from one party to another.

**Q: Are there any extremist Islamic groups in Saada, as is often rumored?**

**A:** Saada is very quiet. There are people who belong to different Islamic sects such as the Zaydi or Sunni who might differ slightly in their viewpoints, but never to the point of extremism. They respect each others opinions and never resort to violence to settle their differences. Saada is known for the prevalence of the Zaydi sect. The Sunni people largely came after the September Revolution. They are very decent and rational

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A Statement from the Committee On the Middle East

# D O N O T B O M B I R A Q

While the United States clearly has the military power to further devastate and prostrate Iraq, we strongly believe that the course the U.S. has chosen is not only grossly unjust, but also exceedingly hypocritical and duplicitous. We further believe that though the U.S. may be able to pursue its imperial policies without substantial opposition in the short term, the policies being pursued today, especially the new and massive military assault being prepared against Iraq, are likely to have tremendously negative historical ramifications. As Middle East experts and scholars - many with close and personal ties to this long troubled and misunderstood region - we feel a political, a moral, and a historical responsibility to speak up in clear opposition at this critical time.

**Origins of Today's Imbroglia:**

Throughout this century, Western countries, primarily the United States and Great Britain, have continually interfered in and manipulated events in the Middle East. The origins of the Iraq/Kuwait conflict can be found in the unilateral British decision during the early years of this century to essentially cut off a piece of Iraq to suit British Empire desires of that now faded era. Rather than agreeing to Arab self-determination at the end of World War I and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Western nations conspired to divide the Arab world into a number of artificial and barely viable entities; to install Arab "client regimes" throughout the region, to make these regimes dependent on Western economic and military power for survival; and then to impose an ongoing series of economic, cultural, and political arrangements seriously detrimental to the people of the area. This is the historical legacy that we live with today. Throughout the 1930s and the 1940s, the West further manipulated the affairs of the Middle East in order to control the resources of the region and then to create a Jewish homeland in an area long considered central to Arab nationalism and Muslim concerns. Playing off one regime against the other and one geopolitical interest against another became a major preoccupation for Western politicians and their closely associated business interests.

**Following World War II:**

After World War II, and from these policy origins, the United States became the main Western power in the region, supplanting the key roles formerly played by Britain and France. In the 1960s Jamal Abdel-Nasser was the target of Western condemnation for his attempt to reintegrate the Arab world and to pursue independent "non-aligned" policies. By the 1970s the CIA had established close working relationships with key Arab client regimes from Morocco and Jordan to Saudi Arabia and Iran - regimes that even then were among the most repressive and undemocratic in the world - in order to further American domination and to secure an ever-growing supply of inexpensive oil and the resultant flow of petrodollars. By the late 1970s the counter-reaction of the Iranian revolution was met with a Western build-up

of the very same Iraqi regime that is so condemned today in a vain attempt to use Iraq to crush the new Iranian regime. The result was millions of deaths coming on top of the terrible devastation of Lebanon, itself a country that had been severed from Greater Syria by Western intrigues, as had been the area of southern Syria, then known as Palestine. Additionally the Israelis were given the green light to invade Lebanon, further devastate the Palestinians, and install a puppet Lebanese government - an attempt which failed, leading to an American and Israeli retreat but ongoing militarism to this day. Meanwhile, throughout all these years Western manipulation of oil supplies and pricing, coupled with arms sales policies, often seriously exacerbated tensions between countries in the region leading to the events of this decade.

**The Gulf Conflict:**

It was precisely such American manipulations and intrigues that led to the Gulf War in 1990. Indeed, we would be remiss if we did not note that there is already much historical evidence that the U.S. actually maneuvered Iraq into the invasion of Kuwait, repeatedly suggesting to Iraq that it would become the pivotal military state of the area in coordination with the U.S. Whether true or not, the U.S. subsequently did everything in its power to prevent a peaceful resolution of the conflict and for the first time intervened with massive and overwhelming military force in the region creating today's dangerously unstable quagmire. The initially stated American goal was only to protect Saudi Arabia. Then after the unprecedented military build-up the goal became to expel Iraq from Kuwait. Then the goal evolved to toppling the Iraqi government. And from there the Americans began to impose various limits on Iraqi sovereignty; took over much of Iraq air space; sent the CIA to repeatedly attempt to topple the Iraqi government; and placed a near-total embargo on Iraq that many - including a former Attorney General of the United States - have termed near-genocidal. The overall result has been the subjugation and impoverishment of Iraq and the actual death of approximately 5% of the Iraqis as the direct result of American sanctions, plus the reallocation of oil quotas and petrodollars to American client-states.

With the Clinton Administration, the U.S. began to insist on the "dual containment" of both Iraq and Iran - both countries which just a few years ago the U.S. was working very closely with and providing considerable arms to. With few in the press able to remember from one year to the next, or to connect one historic event with another, somehow Washington has come to insist on Iraqi disarmament and Iranian strangulation. Furthermore, these policies are being pursued even while Israel and key Arab client states are receiving American weapons in ever larger amounts, with Israel's weapons of mass destruction making her forces 7 to 8 times stronger than all Arab armies combined. Furthermore still, the U.S. and Israeli strategic alliance has never been closer, the U.S. has repeatedly helped Israel defy the will of

the international community and the United Nations, and the U.S. continues to champion a disingenuous Israeli "peace process" which in reality on the ground continues to dispossess the Palestinians and to corral them onto reservations in their own country!

**The Future:**

In a future statement we will move on to the crucial subject of what alternative policies the United States should be pursuing. But at this critical moment we are compelled to come forward and urgently condemn the policies now being pursued by the United States and its regional ally Israel. We call for an immediate cessation of the economic embargo against Iraq, an end to U.S.-imposed restrictions on Iraqi sovereignty and airspace, and most of all immediate suspension of all plans to attack Iraq using the overwhelming technological and military instruments available to the U.S.

If the U.S. continues to pursue its current policies then we conclude and predict it will not be unreasonable for many in the world to brand the U.S. itself as a arrogant and imperialist state, and if that becomes the historical paradigm it will be both understandable and justifiable if others pursue whatever means are available to them to oppose American domination and militarism. Such developments could quite possibly lead to still more decades of conflict, warfare, and terrorism throughout the region and beyond.

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*The above statement was signed by leading intellectuals, university professors, government officials, military personnel and other professionals from the USA, Israel, Canada, France, the UK, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Russia, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and many Arab countries.*

# Water Diversion Rights

By: Dr. Salah Hadash

In Yemen, there is a distinct separation between water diversion rights that were acquired centuries ago and water use rights which of benefaction or usufruct that can be acquired for a specific period of time or even seasonally. The former were acquired in old times when a person or a group of persons began to utilize the water to develop agricultural land with no objections by or conflicts with others, and with no interruption in their use of water for appreciable periods of time. Such rights exist in Yemen (and most neighboring countries) for surface water, springs and infiltration galleries. In contrast, the rights of benefaction are a relatively recent development or approach. They exist in countries in which the water is declared as State property to be managed through a permit system.

As pointed out earlier, diversion rights cover four aspects of a water right; vis-a-vis: the basis/conditions for:

- a) initiation of the diversion right; i.e., the right to divert water from the source,
- b) changes in the right (by selling or transfer),
- c) protection of the right (protection zones), and
- d) losing the right.

**a) Basis for Initiation / Acquisition of the Diversion Right**

Constitutionally, water diversion rights are a kind of concession granted by the State to the user to exploit a natural resource. They are supposed to be regulated by law (article 18).

The Saria'ah point of view regarding basis for initiation of diversion right is summarized in article (1367) of the civil law, which states that:

Civil Article 1367: resnullius water is the right of whoever reaches it first, and in a quantity which suffices him, even if taken from within a property (of others). It is prohibited to enter a neighbor's property to take water except by permission of the owner or his consent or by custom, and it is not allowed to harm the owner as a result of taking the water from his property except (if taken) for human drinking or to clean-up for praying.

- Thus, this article establishes that: a) any "non-appropriated" water may be claimed for appropriation, even if taken from within a property of others (private or public),
- b) claims are recognized by seniority (first in time, first in service),
- c) the quantity of claim is determined by sufficiency to the appropriator,
- d) it is prohibited to enter a neighbors land to take water without the owner's permission or consent, unless such entry is based on a custom, and
- e) any diversion of water from a source should not cause any harm to existing users/owners, unless the water is taken for drinking or to clean-up for praying.

The above article doesn't distinguish between surface and groundwaters. That is, it appears to be applicable to any water; be it in a cistern, from a spring, or from an aquifer. However, for groundwater, the diversion right may be initiated and acquired by purchasing land and drilling a well (civil law article 1366).

Civil Article 1366: ...the drilling of a well to receive water is considered an appropriation by containment (and hence an ownership), provided that the water comes from a resnullius (source) and it passed in the (natural) waterway.

The fact that landownership gives the owner the right to tap the underlying aquifer may be deduced from civil law's article 1163 which grants the owner of a land full control over everything above and beneath its surface to any "useful" height and depth, which is in fact the conviction of most people.

Civil Article 1163: land-ownership is inclusive of what is above and beneath it to whatever height or depth is useful to benefit from it (the land). It is permitted, by agreement, to separate the ownership of land surface from the ownership of what is above or beneath it, provided that no contradiction occurs with the regulations outlined in the law.

Again, notice the contradiction between the exclusive rights granted to a landowner in the civil law and the Constitution's declaration of all natural

resources in the underground as State property. This point is further discussed in the section on legal issues.

Moreover, initiation of a water right may be undertaken during the process of acquisition of "non-owned" land. That is, during the reclamation phase of public land or any land which is not owned (see article 1185).

Civil Article 1185: lands which are not privately owned... are res-inullus (mubah) and may become privately owned by "bringing life to it/or reclaiming it." However, it is prohibited to bring-to-life land which is part of the protection zone (Harim) of a spring, a well, a flood course, a tree, or a building ...except by the owner. Determination of the protection zone of each of these types should be according to article 1252 or in accordance with custom.

Custom also recognizes the right to initiate a water right in land not owned as private property. Article (58) of the Document of Seventy Rules grants this right provided that the new well is outside the protection zone which surrounds an existing well.

**b) Changes in the Diversion Right (selling or transfer of right)**

In Saria'ah, there are two view points regarding the appurtenance of water rights to land. One group of Islamic schools considers that the water right belongs to the land itself not to the landowner. Hence; the water right is inseparable from the land and is included with it whenever the land changes owners (by selling or inheritance). This inseparability applies even though a landowner may not explicitly mention the transfer of the water right with the land in the purchase document.

The other group of schools requires explicit statement of the transfer of water right with the land. Otherwise, the water right remains a property of the original landowner even though he sold the land.

According to civil law, the irrigation right is a type of Servitude Right. Hence, it is inheritable from benefactor to successor(s) and its use may be written out in wills. However; this right cannot be sold separately from the land, neither can it be conceded or rented except if this is in accordance with a recognized custom (article 1370).

Civil Article 1370: the right to irrigate is inheritable and its use may be donated in wills, but it cannot be sold except with the land, neither can it be donated or rented except according to an established/recognized custom.

**c) Conditions for Losing the Diversion Right**

Since the water right (diversion and use) is appurtenant to the land, then it cannot be lost. However; the actual use of that right may cease when:

- i) the land is washed away or is buried under a thick sediment cover which was deposited by heavy floods. Both cases are common for lands along wadi channels of the inter-mountain wadis,
- ii) the intake structures are destroyed and washed away,
- iii) the benefactor himself abandons the use,
- iv) the source of water (well or spring) is depleted.

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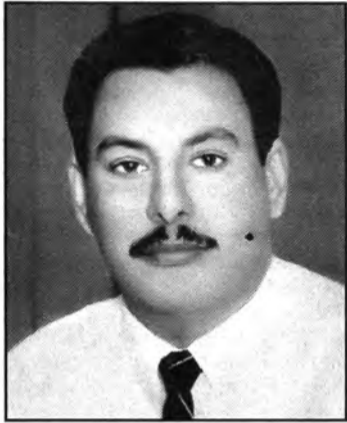
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This is an **OPINION** page.  
Every week, a different intellectual writes a **FOCUS** on a pertinent issue!

## Tribes & Social Transformations in Yemen



**Dr. Abdulhakeem Al-Sharjabi,**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology,  
Sanaa University

usually taken over by the strong central authority of the state. The major social effect of the tribe's decline was manifested in the change from the life of the bedouin wanderer to a more settled life. Internal and external immigration was another factor that helped in the tribe's downfall. The economy moved from that of scarcity to be more market oriented. The individual gradually moved towards the new resources offered by the new groups with the assistance of factors outside the tribal framework. Thus, the individual became less associated with the particular group. This has resulted in a marked change in the conditions of the extended family. Individuals started to distance themselves from their traditional larger groups, gaining more independence. Despite the collapse in tribal loyalty in the southern governorates, tribal allegiances were then transferred to the ruling authority, taking deep roots there. So the demise of the tribe in the south was really superficial. As soon as the political regime faced any shocks or upheavals, tribal affiliations soon came to the surface. Tribal authority is now quite alive and well in the south. Tribal sheikhs and elders and sons of the old sultans are all starting to regain their old authority, deliberately or otherwise.

In the northern governorates, tribal influence and authority reached their lowest point at one period in time. But they started to regain their old power due to a number of factors:

- Following the outbreak of the revolution in September, 1962, the new government took extra care to convince the tribes to accept the republican regime and win their support in the struggle with the monarchist forces. Towards the end of October, 1962, more than 500 tribal sheikhs were invited to come Sanaa to declare their allegiance to the new regime. During their presence in Sanaa, the first constitution of the republic was declared.

The "Defense Council" was then formed of tribal sheikhs, each given the status of a minister of state in the new government. Thus a large number of tribal sheikhs were propitiated to take up the republican cause. Thus, the tribal sheikhs became incorporated within the political body of the state and its official power. Moreover, tribal leaders were granted economic and financial privileges thereby owning the means of economic production. Opinions regarding the tribal system in Yemen differ and swing between those in favor and those who oppose it altogether. Each side has its own reasons and justifications. All in all, it can be said that the tribe is not entirely devoid of positive influences. It propagates the values of generosity, chivalry, magnanimity, and other much cherished social

principles. The negative influence, on the other hand, is manifested in the following.

- The relation between the power of the central authority and the strength of the tribal structure is an inverse one. Whenever the central government is strong, the tribal structure becomes weakened and disjointed. In Yemen the tribal system is currently enjoying a period of prosperity. One of the reasons behind the marked lack of progress in the general development process is the strength of the tribal structure and its permeation into the most important parts of the state.

Generally speaking, the tribes play the following negative roles:

- \* The tribes usually indulge in unofficial trade activities to the detriment of the official economic organization thereby denying the state's treasury much needed revenue.
- \* The tribes help keep the social structure in its current state of non-development and stagnation, basing social esteem not on individual achievement but on an inherited status.
- \* Tribal values usually look down on handicrafts and agricultural work thereby hindering the development of productive work in many areas of the country.
- \* Women are largely held in low esteem in tribal societies, which marginalizes their role in the social, economic, and political life.
- \* The tribes greatly contribute to strengthening narrow loyalties at the expense of the public loyalty to the country in general.

\* The traditional status of the tribes with their heavily armed individuals pose quite a threat to the democratization process.

\* With the preponderance of tribal allegiances and loyalties, nepotism and various other forms of favoritism have become quite rife, at the expense of true work productivity.

\* The state treasury is being bled by paying out regular allowances to tribal leaders and dispensing with huge handouts to solve

tribal conflicts.

In view of the above, the tribe can re-produce its values and ethics in accordance with the interests of its individual members. When an individual cannot realize his potential in the modern establishments of the state, he often resorts to the tribe where he can feel more at home. Thus, the tribal structure ingrains new values and concepts in its members.

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- \* BSC in mechanical or electrical engineering from an accredited university.
- \* At least 15 years in a responsible maintenance engineering position in an oil related industry.
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- **Dr. Christian Debry, MD.** Consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon in Intercommunal Hospital, Poissy-Paris. He will offer surgical consultations for diseases of tonsils, throat, nose, sinuses and ear from **18th May to 7th June**.



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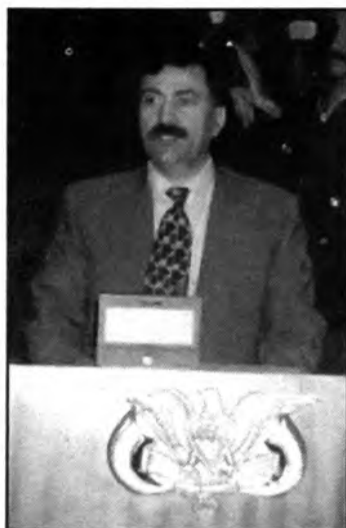
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## Labor Media and Culture to Face New Challenges

The General Federation of Workers' Trade Unions (GFWTU) in Yemen and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) have jointly organized, during 21-23 February, a workshop on the role of labor media and culture in facing up to the challenges of the new age. Sponsored by the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyib, the workshop was attended by more than 20 participants from all over Yemen. The workshop was also attended by the president of the GFWTU, Mr. Yahya Al-Kahlani; the ICFTU representative, Mr. Boyko Atnasov; the Deputy Minister of Information, Ms. Amatuleem Al-Souswa; and other specialists and media representatives. Discussions by the participants exposed several pressing issues and the need to specify media priorities, targeted audience and social segments, and the information to be disseminated. The problems and obstacles that must be surmounted in order to achieve a more active media role include the following:

- 1- Lack of resources and support.
- 2- Lack of awareness of the importance of the media in defending workers' rights.
- 3- Lack of participation by trade union branches.
- 4- The workers' general apathy towards the newspaper published by the GFWTU because of its failure to deal with their real problems.
- 5- Lack of the necessary media materials because of the inactivity of the media officials in the trade union branches.



6- The workers' general circumstances, standards of living and cultural level.

7- Workers generally not paying their membership fees.

All these problems and the lack of materials and programs related to the workers' real problems have made the official media cover official events only. A lecture was also given by Dr. Raofa Hassan on the totalitarian media in which she concentrated on the workers' culture priorities. "The most important thing is to develop the workers' intellectual culture to be compatible with rapid changes of the modern era," explained Dr. Hassan.

Another lecture by Mr. Fadhil A. Al-Aqel dealt with the emergence of the worker class in Yemen, the labor media, labor culture, the Institute of Trade Union Studies, the relationship with Arab and international federations of workers' trade unions, and other relevant topics.

### Recommendations

- At the end of the workshop, the participants came up with the following conclusions and recommendations.
- 1- More such workshops and seminars should be organized in the future.
  - 2- The GFWTU should establish specialized trade union schools, institutes, and centers to provide the trade union movement in Yemen with qualified cadres.
  - 3- Comprehending the rapid world developments, especially in

the process of privatization and globalization.

- 4- All possible means must be adopted to combat child labor.
- 5- Foreign labor must be gradually phased off and be replaced with local labor.
- 6- Women should be supported to assert their rights to work, participate in public life, and get involved in trade union activities; in accordance with the laws and Constitution.
- 7- Constant efforts must be made to ensure better living standards and vocational conditions for all Yemeni workers, and to fight administrative and financial corruption.
- 8- The importance of family planning must be emphasized through the official and mass media due to its utmost importance for the whole society.
- 9- The media and information efforts in Hadhramaut are highly praised, and should be emulated by other GFWTU branches in Yemen.

### Labor Media

- 1- Labor media must be expanded and diversified, benefiting from the modern technologies in this field and the Internet in particular.
- 2- Various types of media should be exchanged with Arab and international trade union and cultural organizations.
- 3- Labor culture organizations should organize various programs on labor media.
- 4- Benefit must be made of the media capabilities and expertise available at international trade union organizations.
- 5- The linguistic skills of labor media personnel must be developed so that they would be able to closely follow world development in the field of labor.
- 6- TV and radio programs as well as press space must be allocated for the Yemeni trade union movement to publicize its news and activities and its role in the economic and social development.

## Integrating Women in the Labor Market

The Symposium on Integrating Women in the Labor Market and Developing their Vocational Abilities was held in Sanaa during 24-26 February. It was the fruit of a joint effort by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, the Dutch Embassy in Sanaa, the British Council, and the German Technical Cooperation office (GTZ). In addition to specialists and researchers, more than 50 people, representing local and foreign governmental and non-governmental organizations took part in this symposium.

The opening session was attended by the Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani; the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyib; the ambassadors of Britain and Holland; the EU representative in Sanaa, the ILO representative; and members of the British Council in Sanaa.

### Topics of Discussion

During the symposium, 11 research papers were submitted. They mainly dealt with the geographic, demographic and the population characteristics of the female labor force. Other papers included statistics on working women and the sectoral distribution of their economic activities.

Other topics discussed by the participants included policy formulation, legislations concerning working women, vocational training, tackling the effects of structural adjustment and economic reform, and employing gender issues in the strategies of integrating women in the labor market and the vocational training programs.

Also important for the par-

ticipants were the issues of foreign support for working women, the role of NGOs in qualifying women and integrating them in the labor market,

many choices to be able to get involved in the labor market.

- Establishing a data-base on working women and coordinating with the relevant bodies to tackle any deficiencies in statistics.
- Conducting field surveys and studies to better know the real conditions of working women.
- Implementing national projects and programs to address the effects of structural adjustment and economic reforms, including activating the social safety network.
- Restructuring the NGOs in a way which allows the involvement of active women to take part in putting women's needs and requirements with the rest of the priorities.
- Forming a supreme coordinating council for women affairs to be headed by the Prime Minister.
- Emphasizing girls' rights to education as guaranteed by the Yemeni Constitution.
- Developing adult education programs to allow a larger number of women to enroll.
- Rectifying the way women are viewed in school curricula.
- Setting a long-term national strategy to develop vocational training programs for women in rural and urban areas.
- Improving the quality of training programs provided by women's training centers.
- Developing a well-qualified staff of female trainers and instructors to work at women's training centers.
- Providing the existing training centers with the necessary equipment and facilities.
- Formulating a comprehensive media campaign to encourage women to enroll in vocational training programs.
- Opening new vocational training centers for women in major towns and cities around the country.

and other crucial topics.

### Suggestion & Recommendations

- Amending the Yemeni law and legislation texts to be compatible with Arab and international labor standards concerning women.
- Preparing and issuing decisions and regulatory charters to protect working women and improve their conditions, including providing them with health insurance.
- Issuing a law to regulate the vocational education and training of women.
- Providing good legislative cover for workers in agriculture, especially women.
- Providing good opportunities for women to be present in the various legislative, executive, and judicial authorities and activating their decision-making roles, according to their abilities and proficiency.
- Activating the role of the media in raising awareness of women's issues, their legal rights, and the legislations that best serve them.
- Developing the commercial, arbitration, investment and other laws to help provide women with



Ahlam Al-Mutawakil,  
Yemen Times

## Dutch Help for Agricultural Marketing

Ishmail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times met Mr. Mattheieu Brugman to talk about the first Yemeni-Dutch agriculture show held during 22-27 February in Dhamar.

**Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your project?**

**A:** We organized the show here to put Dhamar on the map. Dhamar is seen as a town that is backwards, but I think a number of valid and viable projects take place here. My project is the Agricultural Management Support Project. The extension training component is located here and assists the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority to improve extension methodology and research. We also train many people and send them abroad to get Ph.Ds. The show is a very important vehicle to bring into contact with each other the private and public sectors. It is a fine opportunity enabling private companies to have dialogue with public organizations, like government organizations, credit banks and some of the private organizations. We are also presenting the Farmer's Union and its association, which we see as a very important partner in improving extension to the Yemeni farmers.

**Q: Can you tell us about the show?**

**A:** The show itself is a combination of different activities. The main building contains the Trade Fair, where approximately 80 Yemeni and Dutch companies are represented showing a variety of products and services. We also have demonstrations focusing on water conservation in Yemen. For that, we have 4 greenhouses, which are drip irrigated. We also have open field drip irrigation systems, for food trees, tomatoes and green peppers. Water is



very scarce in Yemen, but the use of water is still so reckless. Huge quantities of water are wasted on crops that can grow with much less water than they get right now.

**Q: What kind of demonstrations are there?**

**A:** Another demonstration we have is competitions for the farmers. They compete for Best Bull, Best Sheep and Best Goat. The quality of the animals in Yemen isn't very high yet. It is extremely important that the farmers know what a good animal is and how to care for them. The winners of these competitions

receive prizes.

There is also a plowing competition. Every farmer plows, but to plow really good you need to control your equipment in a certain way. For this, we have an experienced judge from Taiz to assist in this competition. For the cattle competition, we have special judges from the Netherlands, who will train their Yemeni counterparts at the same time, so Yemeni cattle judges will know exactly how to judge a good animal next year.

**Q: Is there any entertainment?**

**A:** There is much entertainment. There is a football tournament, donkey racing, a restaurant, a playground for the children, musical dances, and a traditional Dutch dance group.

**Q: Are there any demonstrations for women?**

**A:** For rural women, there will be a special demonstration for specific skills to reduce the phosphorus deficiency in cows. Yemeni farmers need to develop a way to get rid of the problem and demonstrate it in our unit for the rural women. We have special threshing methods and simple

appropriate technical tools to make butter and things like that. These things are purely focusing on rural women. So, I think the show offers a variety of activities and I think everybody can learn something and amuse themselves. I think it will be very successful.

**Q: What kinds of projects are planned for 1998?**

**A:** For that question, you should go to the embassy because I haven't a complete overview of all the Dutch projects. I do know that there are projects in Hodeida, Shabwa and Dhamar. There aren't many projects for agriculture at the moment.

**Q: When will your project end?**

**A:** My project will end April 13th of this year. At least, that is when the finance stops. But, I hope that we get more funds to continue for two years. It depends on a number of factors, which would be better if I explained.

I have an evaluation goal of looking at the project to see if it has been done well and has had some effect on the community. If the outcome is positive, then the project will be extended for two more years. I think it is extremely important to continue because I see new developments, in which the private sector that is working in agriculture will be much more involved in extension and providing farmers with valid, useful information. It is something that the government still has to get used to. They are not too happy about it yet. When you go to Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries, you will see that the private sector plays a much bigger role in agriculture than in Yemen. I like my projects to con-



tribute to the starting of this development. The private sector must be more involved. There is already an example of this in the cooperation between the private sector and the farmers.

The greenhouses are developed, renovated and put into production with the cooperation between Sheba Company, a subsidiary of Adhban, and the Research Station Central Highlands. I think that it is the first time this has happened in Yemen and it should happen more often.

**Q: Why did you choose Dhamar to host this show?**

**A:** I considered Dhamar because of the Central Highlands Agriculture Center. There are already enough shows in Sanaa and nothing ever happens in Dhamar. The project is here, so the show should also be here. There are many farmers at the show. I don't think as many farmers would go if the show was in Sanaa. The object of the show is to get information, entertainment and knowledge to the farmers surrounding Dhamar. Farmers are number 1 in my project.

**Q: Will there be any more shows?**

**A:** If my project is extended, we will include enough money to organize next year's show. A show is planned for 1999 and for 2000. We will try to make enough money from this year's show so that our Yemeni counterparts can organize one for themselves. We've started making money by selling entrance tickets for the big building, that hosts the trade fair.



# Draft Paper for Minister of Public Health on More Autonomy Hospital

## Introduction

This paper explains why autonomous public hospitals should be piloted in Yemen. An autonomous public hospital usually means a hospital with its own Board of Trustees. It has a highly skilled management team which manages the budget and hires and fires its own staff. It received its income by entering into service agreements with the Ministry of Health by which it receives a lump sum for an agreed package of services. It remains a public body which is accountable to the Minister of Health. It is a model that delivers the best value for money and which works in the UK and other countries. It is being introduced into an increasing number of developing countries.

The proposal is for pilots to be conducted at two district hospitals and one governorate hospital. District hospitals are chosen because they play a critical part in the delivery of primary health care which is a priority area. A governorate hospital is chosen because tertiary hospitals consume a disproportionate share of the national health budget and to test the autonomy principle at that level. The criteria for selecting the recommended pilot sites is described below. At each pilot hospital attempts will be made to establish proper referral systems so that patients are seen at the appropriate level of health center or hospital.

## The Present Situation

The extent of the failure of system for delivering health care is obvious to health workers and the users of the service alike. Studies by the World Bank and expert consultants have highlighted the weaknesses. Hospitals and health centers in urban areas

are overstuffed, yet there are shortages of doctors and other health workers in rural areas and not enough money for supplies, drugs and equipment and maintenance. The physical conditions with hospitals and health centers fall below levels of acceptability. It is common to find broken water and sewerage systems. A recent report on diagnostic services indicated that not a single laboratory in Yemen meets basic international standards. It is no exaggeration to state that in the current conditions in hospitals it is almost impossible to practice good medicine and to provide modern standards of care.

Some of the problems are caused by lack of funding but perhaps 50% of what little there is available is lost through theft, wastage and inefficiency attributable to poor management. There needs to be radical change. The Ministry of Public Health under its new leadership acknowledges the unacceptable standard of the service it has inherited and is impatient to tackle it by a two-pronged program of decentralization and management development. (It is also addressing the problems of funding by negotiating for an increased budget and by income generation from cost sharing and more private beds - but that is not the subject of this paper.)

## How The Money Flows Through The System

With this model, the Revenue money flow for the delivery of services is as follows. (The question of whether staff, activities and MOPH HQ; Governorate health offices and District Management Teams continue to be funded in accordance with the old system's needs to be determined and for the purposes of this

paper it is assumed that they will).

Ministry of Finance - Agrees on a budget for autonomous hospitals with Ministry of Public Health and asks for indicators to measure the performance of the hospitals. Issues a lump sum (or single line) allocation not divided into chapters.

Ministry of Health - Agrees on a budget with hospital based outputs of activity and quality.

Hospital - Employs staff and manages resources to provide services which meet the requirements for volume; range and quality contained in service agreements. May generate income in accordance with MOPH policies on cost sharing and private practice and may retain that income for uses determined by Hospital Management Board and in accordance with MOPH policies. Produces annual financial statements based on commercial accounting practices and is subject to audit by the Ministry of Finance. Makes activity returns to appropriate level within MOPH, as required for planning and monitoring purposes.

## Development Funds and Capital Investments

These should be allocated to the lowest level that has the expertise to manage them.

## Separating the Funding & the Delivery of Hospital Services

The central "command" system which operates in Yemen is a system once found in most countries but which has become widely discredited for the poor quality of the results and its resistance to change. Countries are now decentralizing the government machine and training local managers to deliver services in

the most cost effective manner by allocating lump-sum budgets to them in return for agreed levels and standards of services. This means that hospitals are becoming autonomous with local management boards and trained managers making decisions about staffing and controlling expenditure.

## Role of the Ministry of Public Health

Freed from the burden of operational management, the role of the Ministry headquarters becomes one of strategic planning; policy development; monitoring and quality assurance. Similarly, the Governorate Health Office concentrates on assessing the health needs of its population and planning services to meet those needs. It assists with the development of national policy and ensures that MOPH policies are carried out through systems of service agreements with providers such as hospitals. This role is continued by District Health Management Teams.

## Management of Hospital - Autonomy

The advantages of an autonomous hospital are that local managers can decide how resources can be used effectively to obtain best value for money and they become accountable for their performance. Management Boards may hire and fire their own staff and reward good performance. This differs from the traditional model which has resulted in inefficiency; low quality and a resistance to change.

The features of an autonomous public hospital are:

1. It is established by as a statutory body.

2. It has a Board of governors or Trustees who are non-executives and who are appointed by the Minister with recommendations from local communities for district hospitals.

3. The Board appoints a Chief Executive who is accountable solely to the Board.

4. There is a Management Executive team whose core members should be a doctor; a nurse and a finance director.

5. The Board is accountable to the Minister of Public Health for the performance, financial and otherwise of the hospital.

6. All staff are appointed by the Board on terms and conditions determined by the Board. The Board decides on the numbers and skill mix and has freedom to hire and fire staff within the relevant employment legislation.

7. The Board receives funding subject to written service agreements which set out the volume; range and quality of services to be delivered.

8. The Board may raise its own income which it may retain to improve services e.g. from private beds.

9. The Board uses commercial accounting standards and practices.

10. The Board adopts Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions that regulate its conduct of meetings and its business and financial affairs.

This model of an autonomous hospital was discussed at the Workshop held on 12/13th October 1997 and attended by the Minister for Public Health and 35 participants from various levels of the Ministry and some donors. It was agreed that hospital autonomy should be suitable for Yemen and that it should be the objective.

Autonomy should be the aim for the referral; governorate and larger district hospitals. The rural district hospitals are small enough to be cost effective management units and a better model would be for the rural district hospital and its nearby health centers to form a single management unit which could be autonomous. This arrangement whereby the rural district hospital forms the focal point for delivering primary health care services both in terms of management and logistics is consistent with the objective of strengthening first line health services.

## Membership of the Board

The size and membership of the Board is important to its success. The Board members are not executives e.g. a Board member should not sign cheques. They are there to advise; determine policy; monitor the executive directors and to represent the opinions of the community. At district level, the majority of Board members should be selected on the advice of the local community. At a referral or governorate hospital which has added responsibilities of teaching or research and a more national role, the composition of the Board will differ. Members are likely to be picked for their skills and experience and other relevant bodies such as the University might be represented. The government's policy of promoting women's interests would be served by ensuring that a minimum number of women - perhaps 20% - are on the Board. In any event, the Board membership should be limited in size (10-15) if it is to function efficiently and be a decision making-body rather than an assembly.

## What Medical Lab Tests Reveal

What's behind a visit to a biomedical lab when a Yemeni arrives and asks for a check-up. A check up means blood urine and feces analysis and after Eid there are many complaints. Only the ill of an affluent society? Not so. These days whether here or abroad modern technology has made analysis results quick for the public and a lot of people suffer. They suffer from round-

worm, tapeworm, amebiasis, malaria and leishmaniasis and hyperactive thyroids which can be detected in an equipped lab. This does not exclude diagnosing heart ailments through enzyme tests done.

A good biomedical lab whether in Sanaa or not will be equipped today with automatic spectrophotometers to measure uric acid in the blood, immunoassay analyzers to measure

such things as the presence of HIV in the blood, or other viruses and hormone levels and blood counters to give blood cell counts and volumes. There are also microscopes for slide preparations and gel electrophoresis machines to measure the presence of abnormal amounts of certain lipoproteins in the blood which

would be indicative of arteriosclerosis for example. Here are some of the common ailments found in Yemenis, as they have themselves tested after the Eid and what preventive measures they can take.

The roundworm which forms a cyst in a vector like cow meat, can end up in the human liver. Obviously the meat must be cooked well so as to kill the vector. A test at the lab can reveal its presence, the stool is diluted with normal saline solution which is at the same salt concentration as in physiological tissue and is smeared on a slide to be examined. Ascaris eggs have characteristics that can be identified under a light microscope. These worms can also be evacuated in the stool. A therapeutic agent for this and other roundworms is Pyrantel Pamoate. Rarer parasitic diseases like Tenia Saginata are also identified from stool smears which would reveal proglottides or eggs depending on whether the worm was sexually mature in the host organism or not.

The proglottides are the individual body segments of the worm which detach from the parent organism while attached in the digestive tract and from which a new organism can result. Each proglottide has an excretory, reproductive and digestive system. The eggs of the tapeworm may be laid near the

anus of the infected individual. Treatment is Niclosamide Paromomycin.

Other parasitic ailments analyzed at the lab include giardiasis mentioned some months ago. The giardiasis produces cysts under unfavorable conditions or while passing out with the stool and can be detected by an appropriate laboratory smear. Alternatively, duodenal contents can be obtained by aspiration through a gastric tube and its contents analyzed. This protozoan, usually prevalent in children at day care centers can be treated with Metronidazole. Dysenteric amebiasis is less common, although a threat in Yemen and the ameba can also be detected from saline smears made from the stool of the infected individual.

Blood flukes like Schistosomiasis, due to infected water and a cause for intestinal or hepatic fibrosis, can be diagnosed by examining embryonated eggs in the stool or urine. It can be treated by Niridazole.

Malaria which is quite common and can be detected through blood slides which are stained so as to reveal the protozoan. It is important to identify the type of plasmodium as this will influence the therapy and prognosis. Visceral leishmaniasis, on the rise in the Horn of Africa is also a threat here. The protozoan is transmitted by the sandfly and its manifestations may be visceral,

affecting the liver, spleen and bone marrow, whereas other varieties of the same disease affect mucocutaneous or cutaneous tissue.

The cutaneous variety of leishmaniasis, prevalent in the Middle East, can be demonstrated in smears or cultures obtained from ulcer curettes. A good lab will equip itself with a needle biopsy facility, as sensitive serological tests are not generally available. Pentavalent antimony compounds are used for treatment. Antibiotic treatment is indicated for secondary bacterial infections.

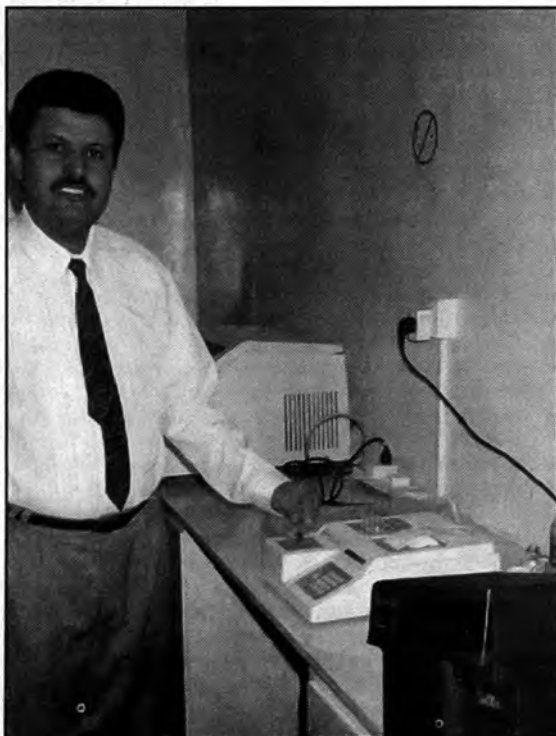
What about the person who chews qat for years? Even heart ailments that qat chewing can provoke, can be detected at the laboratory. The chemical tested for is creatinine kinase, it is an enzyme normally present in heart tissue and an increased level of this enzyme in the blood is indicative of damage to the heart tissue. This is more true for the consistent qat chewer than for those who chew occasionally and damage might be due to the increase stimulation of the heart muscle in people who chew. But there is also an increase of SGOT, a transaminase usually involved in maintaining the amino acid pool in the body and LDH. An increased SGOT would mean that a certain amino acid is being produced in excess because the heart tissue is losing protein which is made up of that

amino acid. Pesticides are sprayed regularly on the qat to kill fungal parasites but can accumulate in the liver and cause destruction of that tissue. The damage can be measured through the analysis of SGOT and SGPT levels as mentioned above. SGPT also maintains the amino acid pool.

And about the presence of oxalic acid crystals in the urine? If the Yemenis drink normal underground water they are more susceptible to the presence of this salt in the urine as the water does have a high salt content. A similar presence of other crystals in the urine might occur for those that eat an over abundance of meats. An abnormally high meat diet rich in proteins can be related here. The solution is to modify the eating behavior of the individual so that he eats a greater variety of food and less meat. An unchecked diet may eventually mean the build up of these crystals in the urine and therefore in the kidney which accumulates them, sometimes causing kidney stones which would further complicate matters.

Such ailments could make up a typical working day of a biomedical lab technician, who after performing tests, and analyzing the results forwards them to the individual who can get treatment as quickly as possible.

Martin Dansky / Yemen Times.





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بمناسبة النجاح العظيم

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بتهانينا الحارة بمناسبة النجاح الكبير لزيارتهم إلى  
ماليزيا ، والصين ، واندونيسيا ، والامارات العربية المتحدة  
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# Reminiscences of Wadi Shaab... Yemen in Transition

By: Samira Ali Bin Daair

When I went to Wadi Shaab last Eid, it was two years since I last visited - the longest period ever to stay away ever since I started my long saga with this wadi. It is now over three years since the old lady died... my mother in law... the tough lady of the mountain whose frail petite figure belied her strength and the fires in the spirit. Nothing had seemed the same since she was gone... there was only the echo of memories amidst the sounds emanating from fainter souls.

Nothing seemed to pull me there anymore... that's not true... there were still dozens of cousins with whom my children still had strong bonds. There was my sister-in-law and my best friend in the village all these years... who was like a portal through which I could view all the different vistas of village life. She was like a bridge between the exotic traditional life of Yemen and the modern Yemen of cornflakes and tomato ketchup, in her prosaic wisdom coming from the natural school of life. There were my husband's sisters-in-law whose husbands were doing business in the gulf... typical of Yemenis who apart from the wanderlust are often forced to venture abroad in search of a better living. For the women, it was a way of life they accepted... having a part-time husband was certainly better than having full-time unemployed husbands.

They didn't mind the extra burden they had to take on being grass widows... they had learnt long ago that in life you cannot have your "khubz" and eat it!

The old days of glory were over in the Wadi. Unless you were teaching at the local school or working as a builder you had to emigrate either internally or outside. The second generation seemed to repeat the pattern.

Some of the sons work in nearby towns and marry their cousins staying as close to home as possible. Others venture further up north, or at least as far as Aden. The young men still go back to their mothers to celebrate Eid, especially the Haj Eid, where their strength is required to slaughter the goats and help with the chores that come with the festivities. They would leave their wives to celebrate Eid with their own families.

I remember the trepidation I felt when I went to the Wadi for the first time and my son was a little toddler. How my heart had sunk when I looked at the little busy-body, a sparkle in his eyes, eying the steep mountain on which my father-in-law's house lay... oops the little ant-hill in the villagers' dictionary. I fleetingly thought of him safely tucked away in his room playing with his toys on our tenth floor apartment in Abu-Dhabi, and my rushing every minute to check him, worried that someone had opened the French windows by mistake, and imagined the worst already! I then smiled and braced myself for a voyage of discovery in the wadi. All untrodden paths had always excited me since I was a little toddler myself. I remember my mother's worried face as I had bade her goodbye to spend my first few months' salary on a package tour to North Africa, and Spain. Going away to university had been bad enough but that had been for education on a scholarship with everything taken care of. "What if something happens to you...?" "Ask the Travel Agents... they'll know how to contact me," I told her cruelly. Now every time I think of my teenage daughter nearing university, I get butterflies, moths, grasshoppers... the lot in my stomach! Here I am... an educated mother living in the age of Fisher Price toys and the Internet! I ought to be ashamed of myself.

When my husband had left the village to go with his father to Aden where he had his contracting business, and then to Zabeed, and Taiz, his mother had not spoken to his father for days for taking away her son.

When he finally said goodbye to her to go to university, she had run behind the car almost to the nearby village trying to stop him, even if her gut feeling had told her long ago that he would leave some day. It was all her brother's fault, the Uncle everyone in the village called "Al-Faqeeh." He had worked at Sanaa University Library for many years, but now he was retired living full time in the village. His house is stacked with books from the ceiling to the floor, and I remember once teasing him about being careful not to suffer the fate of "Al-Jahidh" (A muslim scholar who died when his library collapsed on him). He was one of my favourites in the village, and no one could fail to be entertained by his wit and humour. The wheels of time spare no man... sadly he seemed older and more frail this time. My mother-in-law had told me that it was he who had made her son as useless as he was, filling his mind with ideas of going away to seek knowledge when all the knowledge was right here in the wadi amongst his ancestors. However, my husband had told me how disappointed his father had been when his other two brothers did not want to continue after secondary school, and how he had wanted them all to go to university to do better than he had. Who knows, if they had done that, they might not have joined the ranks of the

unemployed graduates of Yemen. Life is unpredictable.

A lot of water has run under the bridge since that time... Every generation had tried at some time or the other in vain to catch the wind and still the motion of the younger generation but no one could ever keep the birds from flying to greener pastures in winter.

The sun had already set when we finally arrived in the Wadi but we had already stopped at Toor Al-Baha to break our fast. Everyone was talking at the same time as the children hugged each other in excitement and my sister-in-law would have made a very good shorthand expert in the old days as she tried to catch up on two years in five minutes. The vibrant sense of life seemed so out of place with the surrounding pitch darkness and deathly silence. I could not hear even the usual crickets chirping... or was it the deafening noise that made me hear the sounds of stillness? Very quickly everything was safely deposited where it should be in the little self-contained annex my brother-in-law had built and which we used whenever we went there.

Soon the "Aseed" arrived, since it was the quickest possible edible thing they could concoct unless we wanted to wait for the chickens to be slaughtered. But the chickens were for eggs really and for multiplying and we usually bought chicken from the nearby shopping area. When we were last there, my sister-in-law's cow had produced a calf which was



the mother cow now giving them milk and the cow had been sold for 50,000 riyals. So it is an ongoing business, since her husband had been forced into early retirement from the newspaper in Aden and the remaining income did not stretch far.

The donkey my children had ridden when they were little had long ago been sold because hay had become expensive.

The next morning I could not believe my eyes when I saw the green wadi. "Yes, we have had a lot of rain recently," said my husband's aunt. A cool wind blew over my face to relieve me of the rigors of fasting for by 10.00 p.m., the previous evening, we had given up searching the sky for the tell-tale signs of Idd, and succumbed to the radio which informed us it was still Ramadhan.

Until the day I die, the memory of Eid in my childhood will stay with me. When I close my eyes, I am transported back into time and I can still smell the sweets my mother baked and recall the excitement we felt as we went to inspect our new Eid clothes hanging in the cupboard for the hundredth time. We used to be lined up for henna on our hands in the evening and I remember waking up at night and relishing the strong smell on my hands which was sure proof that the day we had been waiting for for so long was coming. A few days before Eid Al-Fitr we would queue up for our little hands to be put into huge sacks of rice, flour and sugar, as verses from the Holy Quran were recited and then the sacks of rice and sugar would be given away to the poor as zakat-al-fitr. At Eid-al-Haj, we would always go and watch the goats being slaughtered, and after that it was time to go indoors to eat the sweets and heavy breakfast that was usual at Eid. I smile when I hear modern parents condoning the "primitive" habit of letting children watch the procedure of slaughtering when they have no qualms about letting their children watch violence on T.V., and play violent and bloody video games. In the village, Eid is special and all the trimmings and traditions still live on.

Many Yemenis living abroad and coming for a visit to Yemen also seem to want to erase old memories, although there are others who give in to their nostalgia for Salta, Makhbaaza and the natural smells of life and sweat in "Bab-al-Yaman," that the neat streets and giant glass edifices elsewhere do not offer. I am sometimes amused at the fact that some cannot see anything but the garbage and the traffic chaos, as I drive them through the streets of Sanaa, admittedly trying to avoid my tenth accident, and my attempts at pointing out the charming and the unusual go unheeded. I still remember my surprise when some people used to say the same about Cairo for e.g. that it was dirty and crowded and so on and so forth, disappointed that they had not seen the Eiffel tower and the beautiful Parisian open-air cafes there. Cairo to me had the magic of the Pharaohs... the eternal charm of the mysterious Nile and the sanctuary of the Arab national movement and the citadel of Islamic scholarship. I could also relive the tales of Nageeb Mahfoodh and Tewfiq Al-Hakeem almost seeing AbdulGawaad and Fatma walking the streets! Well, they do say beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder! Well, how could one even begin to compare British Home Stores and Safeway, to good old Dhamraan and City-end? I still relish drinking the lemonade from Abu-Aleem in Maidan, Crater, Aden, and the special ice-cream I used to eat in Tawahi when I was still at school.

I remember asking my sister each time I went to Abu-Dhabi about landmarks we had known and she telling me with a shrug, "Oh, that's been torn down... now its a pharmacy or a shopping centre." Lest I be accused of romanticizing like Henry D. Thoreau in his "Walden," I am grateful for all the comforts of modern life and technology but it is indeed a tragedy when human-beings cannot even have memories, as fragments of our lives are being bulldozed into oblivion! I remember feeling sorry for Sheikh Zayed of the Emirates on one of his official visits to the U.K., when he had to go through a particularly elaborate and pompous ceremony, as he watched the strange anachronistic attire of the royal family and the guards. For a man who often liked to shed his modern mask in order to escape into the simple life of falconry, camel's milk, and the Majlis in the desert, I am sure he felt whatever many of us feel in a fast-changing and unfamiliar world with which we no longer feel so comfortable.

I used to be fascinated at the strange practices of the western world, that we always seem so anxious to emulate, imagining that rejection of tradition was part of the deal because it is associated with being "backward." Habits like putting on funny hats and pulling crackers at Christmas time in England... and wishing upon a chicken wishbone; or wearing flowers on one's head and the hundred candles which accompany all the ceremonies in the Scandinavian countries. For us in Yemen we use candles for the constant power cuts we used to have. I also remember my English friend in Manchester almost reduced to tears because I did not heed her warnings about passing under a ladder which was supposed to be unlucky... why nothing bad had happened to me was because I also was not born on the unlucky date of the 13th!

In the village I have learned to relax and listen to the voices within me, as I take time to look at the stars and stare at the empty space beyond the horizon without being cluttered by the fax or the phone. There I can escape from the world of the busy executives where it is considered a virtue to be workaholics even if some spend half the time twiddling their thumbs long after productivity has worn off! I have watched people work physically harder in the villages but there seems to be more balance and harmony in their lives despite the difficult conditions of life. One wonders whether all the artifacts of technology are enough to achieve this inner alignment with the self?

In the village, my children learned the secrets of birth, life and death naturally as they watched the animals with their cousins long before they studied reproduction in their science lessons. There they also learned the art of enjoying the simplicities of life and creating entertainment out of nothing as they played in the Wadi. I never heard the eternal sentence... "we are bored, what shall we do" often uttered within the backdrop of computers, and the whole catastrophe! We seem to imagine that children can only develop by surrounding them with electronics and programming them with "things to do," in an artificial life. Come to think of it, Dewey gave the world his classification system and it is

believed he learned it from the time he spent in his childhood organizing his mother's kitchen cupboards. Newton discovered his theory of gravity when he was lying under the apple tree. There has to be a balance between opportunities for developing cognitive skills and a creative atmosphere for applying them to life, otherwise a generation from now we might have computer geniuses without any social skills.

Yes... there is a rough side to village life too when the nearest clinic is 20 minutes' ride if you happen to own a car... and then it is only basic health services... sadly even though 70% of Yemenis live in the underprovided rural areas. But they say necessity is the mother of invention and somehow their survival skills seem to be better than ours in the cities, with recourse to the traditional medicine as leaves from surrounding trees are often pounded into remedies for different ailments. For e.g., people imagine the causes of a big population in Yemen is simply a lack of awareness which advocacy will fix; but I have watched women desperately try traditional remedies for family planning because they have no access to modern family planning techniques... it is attitudes plus delivery of services! We have also spent far too much time researching on why few girls go to school in the villages, putting all the emphasis on tradition and attitudes, whilst the simple fact is the services are either inadequate or non-existent... plus the economics of it!

In the cities in Yemen, however, with all the sophisticated ideas of women in development and gender studies, educated women can have a tough deal as they struggle to make the difficult transition into a demanding modern life in a society where many of the concepts have not yet become internalized creating many social conflicts. In the villages, there are more social support systems that women can fall back upon because there is still a strong sense of community. In the villages, it is considered normal for women to marry twice or thrice, if they have been unfortunate to be divorced or widowed even if they happen to be economically independent running their little businesses. In the towns, paradoxically social attitudes militate more against women than men in many respects, even coming from educated people.

When I wrote my last article on Wadi Shaab, my husband's childhood friend, Dr. Yassin Al-Qobati accompanied us on the trip, and took us to the mountains of Qabetta where all kinds of fascinating happenings take place... like a procession of monkeys coming out exactly at the same time everyday after their daily haunts, etc. His spirit of adventure and love for the Wadi had made that trip special for us as we shared our nostalgic memories in the mountains. This time, happily for him and sadly for us, he was too busy receiving his "Man of the Year" Award from Yemen Times to accompany us!

As I sit here struggling to end this article, I cannot help wondering what the future holds for this country... Although the title of my article is Yemen in transition, I mistrust this nebulous word, because it suggests that life is on hold until we get to a particular state and then we are out of transition. That to me is static, and real life is dynamic and if the truth be told, societies are always in a state of transition and constant flux. Each historical phase is important in itself, as well as for what comes after. We always tend to call a phase transitional simply because we feel that it is not it, and we are all poised for the better things to come in order to say we have made it. In the past, it was easier to have ideals and ideals usually gave birth to great social movements, which were at different times considered to be a transitional phase into better times. Today as we live in the "new world order," ruled purely by economics, within the background of economic insecurity in developing countries; not excepting Yemen, the situation may become overwhelming. As we rush ahead trying to catch up with the world of technology, our minds may become numbed and confused and we stop questioning ourselves as to what we are doing and where we are going... we often end up throwing away the baby with the bath water in our anxiety to keep up!

The Yemen of Bilquis, Arwa and Al-Hamadani is long past, even if we still like to nostalgically look for inspiration from the "Colossus who bestrode" this country. Our memories are beginning to fade, of people like Al-Zubairi, Al-Noman, and many others who sacrificed their lives, in order to create a better Yemen. The future is a combination of the past and the present in the continuum... the cycle of history. It is up to every individual and nation to establish their own parameters of development and progress, (even if it may be within the global framework), to avoid being blown with the wind without guide-posts or getting lost in the desert without a map!

Will Yemen be able to do that as we go towards the 21st century in confidence that we are indeed building a better future for our children, with a happy marriage between the past and the present, and retain what is beautiful and unique to Yemen, even if people like Zubairi have long served their time?



# Qat Theater

By: Fareed Al-Dhabiri

Every theater must have its audience, otherwise it becomes extinct. The audience gives life to the theatrical experience. It is a daily renewed meeting between two humans full of emotions and energy - the actor and the spectator. This characteristic is unique to the theater, and cannot be found in other art forms such as TV, radio, or the cinema.

To be nearer to the Yemeni audience, maqial (qat gathering) theater has emerged. Maqial theater means that the actors with all their props present their plays in qat-chewing sessions, instead of on a conventional theater. A relationship is thus struck up between the theatrical troupe and a potential audience which cannot leave its qat sessions to go to the ordinary theater.

Qat theater will hopefully solve

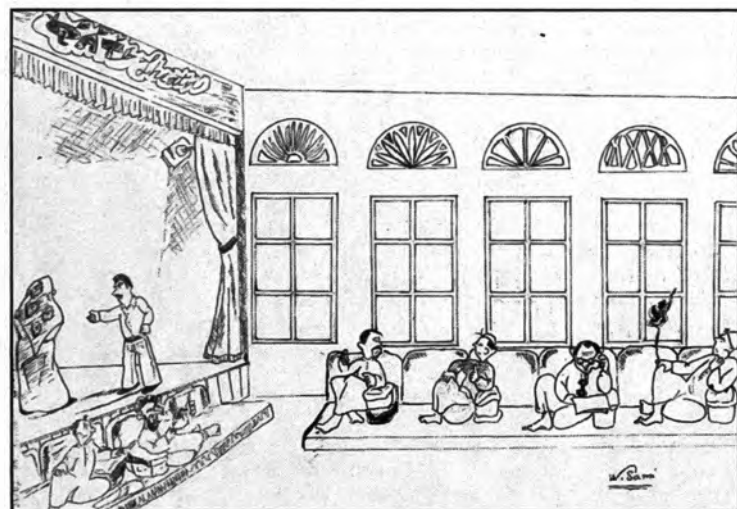


theater auditorium was recently closed down by the Ministry of Culture itself.

So qat theater seems to be a magical solution.

Experiments have already

been conducted in the maqials of a number of prominent figures in the country. The actors who presented their shows in such qat sessions attest to the success of this novel experience. It was met with the approval of a number of Yemeni and foreign intellectuals who recommended that it should be continued and be given more attention. Such a unique experiment reflects a certain trait of the Yemeni people. It has even been suggested that qat theater, if continued, will gradually transform



another problem - lack of decent theaters in Yemen. In the capital Sanaa, there is only one good stage at the Zubairi Hall. Another

the traditional Yemeni qat sessions into cultural gatherings and forums for intellectual exchange.

However, theatrical performances will be the privilege of those who own huge "majlis" or qat-chewing rooms. Thus, an ancient Arab tradition of the court entertainers has been revived at the end of the 20th century.

This is quite wonderful. There are many influential people who own big palatial mansions and are more than willing to host theatrical plays, made to order. In this way, the conditions of Yemeni actors and stage technicians will widely improve. They will become like some of their Egyptian counterparts who perform in private functions and society weddings.

This is a golden opportunity for all Yemeni artists. They can now spiritually unite with the qat chewers "society." The new association can even be named the "United Artists & Qat Chewers of Yemen." To carry the creative experience to a more integrated level, bunches of qat can be sold with complimentary theater tickets. Every type of show will of course have its own kind of qat to accompany it.

Will the theater lose a lot of its unique character by going into qat-chewing sessions?

It is true that art cannot and must not be separated from the political, economic and social life in all its dimensions and influences. The task is not only to reflect reality, but also to try to change it for the better.

Will theater move from the stage to the qat majlis? Is this really the way to promote lofty values and all the bases for a developed and civilized society? Will the audience be created through the qat theater? The audience being

the third factor in the aestheticism of the creative work. Have we really thought about the public who are committed to going to the theater? What about those who don't chew qat?

Is the qat theater the answer to the theater crisis in Yemen.

Of course not. The answer is a theater that attacks that cursed plant, and thoroughly dissects the present in order to create a better future. An artist must be committed to his or her art to better serve the people. Then and only then can the theater become a force for justice and honesty in presenting human contradictions and frailties as well as society's flaws and the people's hopes and aspirations.

The only way to get the Yemeni audience back to the theater is by fighting the abominable qat.

# Scent of a Woman

Perfumed Garden

Going into one of them is like going into the Perfumed Garden of yore. They stock liquids of all colors in bottles of all shapes and sizes. As for the fragrances, they are out of this world. Most of them are imported from France, others from Italy, and a few from

For Young & Old

Young ladies in general prefer lighter, more refreshing perfumes. More mature women tend to go for the stronger, more attention-drawing fragrance. Most of the older and more conservative ladies buy the traditional locally made natural scents such as sandalwood, incense, etc. Tribeswomen go for lighter perfumes than their urban counterparts.



\$\$\$\$

Price is a strong deciding factor in the type of perfume a woman would buy. A woman may become enamored with a particular perfume she

Germany. In this particular shop, 'Arabic perfumes' i.e., those made locally such as sandalwood are only occasionally stocked.

How do a Yemeni woman choose a perfume?

It is a matter of taste and experience. Some women ask to try the perfume on their hands first. Most of them, however, know the type they want because they have tried it before. Few women, on the other hand, trust the salesman's taste, and allow him to choose a suitable perfume for them. But they often end up following their own intuition in choosing what is best for them.

would get a waft of from one of her more well-heeled friends. She would inquire as to its name and make, and immediately go to the nearest stockist.

The answer could be a four- or even a five-figure number (in Yemeni riyals, that is, no USD). Disappointment! Consternation!! Sadness!!! Those with limited incomes can only hope to get imitation eau de toilette, made in some sweatshop in the Far East. Members of the velvet society can very easily buy top-of-the-range perfumes costing YR 8,000 to YR 10,000. However, being expensive doesn't necessarily mean good. Sometimes, one

really buys the brand name on the bottle, not the stuff inside.

Scent in the morning, another for dinner time

Yemeni women are exceptionally adept at choosing the right perfume for the right occasion. The "quieter," purer and more refreshing perfume is used in the morning, while, the "heavy" and stronger ones are worn on social evening occasions. In addition to the stronger scent, Yemeni women use incense, which is made to permeate their clothes in a tradition going back to the fabled Queen Bilquis of Sheba.

Flower Power

The majority of Yemeni women prefer the more natural perfumes that are extracted from "folle" (Arabic jasmine) or the ordinary jasmine. Sandalwood-based scent is another favorite for Yemeni women.

Spray or Splash?

Most Yemeni women prefer perfumes that come in an aerosol since the atomizer allows the scent to permeate through the clothes making the whole body radiate with attractive fragrance. The splash variety tends to become concentrated on one area.

Does Size Matter?

Many women prefer the smaller more delicate perfume containers because they like to finish it quickly and buy a different one. Those who don't like to change buy the bigger perfume bottles as they provide better value for money.

By: Khayriya Al-Shabeebi

## FIELD ENGINEERS

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UNDP Project YEM/96/G32: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of Socotra Archipelago



### Responsibilities

- To assist the National Liaison Officer (NLO) in all administrative tasks relating to the Socotra Biodiversity Project.
- To manage all financial records and reporting of the project, under the supervision of the NLO and the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA).
- To manage the filing system of the office and perform some of the secretarial duties, including typing, required in the office.
- To assist in the follow up of customs clearance and shipment of project materials into the country and onto Socotra.
- To assist in the follow up of visa and permit procedures for expatriate project personnel and visiting consultants.
- To assist in the follow up of transport of project staff, consultants and materials to and from Socotra.
- To maintain close communications with the project team in Socotra and with UNDP and EPC-Environment Protection Council in Sana'a during the absence of the NLO.

### Qualifications

- Competent in basic computer usage, notable word-processor (in English and Arabic) and spreadsheet softwares.
- Good command of English and Arabic, both writing and speaking.
- Academic training in business administration, financial management, and/or secretarial role.
- At least 1 year of relevant job experience. Experience in working with international organizations or companies an advantage.
- Both gender are encouraged to apply. However, applicants without at least three of the above four listed qualification will not be considered.

### Duty Station

- UNDP Environment Programme Management Unit (PMU) in Sana'a, with frequent travel to Socotra island.

### Duration of Assignment and remuneration

- 1 year starting immediately. Contract extendable for up to 4 years.
- a competitive remuneration will be offered according to the candidate's qualification and experience.

### Documentation to be presented upon application

One copy of a candidate's Curriculum vitae, in English, and one passport-size photograph. Applications should be addressed to the UNDP Office, PO Box 551, Sana'a





### Court Backs Libya

Libya won the first round of a bitter legal battle over the Lockerbie bombing last Friday, February 27 when the United Nations' top court threw out British and US objections to its involvement in the case. Libya said it will ask the UN Security Council to lift sanctions it imposed in the 1992 in connection with the bombing. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled it had jurisdiction to hear Libyan complaints against Britain and the United States over their 10-year pursuit of the bombers of PanAm flight 103. A majority of the ICJ's 15 judges also declared that Libya's applications to the court were admissible. The PanAm 103 exploded in December 1988 as it flew above the Scottish village of Lockerbie, killing all 259 on board and 11 people on the ground. London and Washington blamed Libya and demanded the extradition of two suspected bombers for trial in Britain or the US. US and British insistence on trying the two suspects at home lies at the heart of Libya's original complaint to the court in March 1992. In that document, Libya contends it should be allowed to try the men itself.

### Jordan & Turkey: Joint Plan

Turkey, which changed its Middle East policy together with the last change in government and took up a leadership role, has found more support for this policy in the Arab world. At the end of Foreign Minister Ismail Cem's visit to Jordan, Turkey and Jordan have agreed to act together on issues involving the Middle East. The two countries will announce a joint action plan for resurrecting the Middle East Peace process, and re-admitting Iraq into the international community with a declaration they have done last week. The declaration is important with regard to the Middle East policy Turkey will follow from now on. Taking Jordan's full support into account, Turkey will strengthen its role as the "determinator country."

### Benazir: PM Ruining Pakistan

Opposition leader and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto launched an anti-government drive on last Wednesday, February 25 accusing Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of leading the country to ruin. She told a rally estimated at more than 30,000 people in Faisalabad that Mr Sharif's year-old government was following policies harmful to Pakistan. Benazir, who pledged to hold more such

rallies, also accused the premier of framing false corruption cases against her and her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari. She was referring to corruption charges relating to the period of her government, which was sacked in November 1996 by then President Farooq Leghari on disputed charges of misrule. Benazir reiterated charges, denied by the government, that Mr. Sharif aimed to compromise the national interest in a dispute with arch-rival India over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, and was following economic policies that had brought Pakistan "to the brink of destruction."

### Washington Encourages Americans to Visit Iran

The US encouraged Americans to visit Iran and said it would facilitate visas for Iranians who want to come to America. The comments, by State Department spokesman James Rubin, are the latest effort by the US to respond positively to the election last year of a moderate, Mohammed Khatami, as president of the Islamic Republic. They reflect a remarkable, evolving improvement in ties with Iran, which the United States for nearly 20 years demonised for allegedly sponsoring terrorism, trying to acquire nuclear weapons and undermining Middle East peace efforts. Washington made its latest gesture to Teheran after the European Union on Tuesday, February 24 decided to resume high-level diplomatic contacts with Iran - a decision Mr Rubin accepted without criticism.

### Oman Presses for Talks

Omani Oil Minister Mohammed Al-Romhi said he was contacting other Gulf oil ministers about holding a meeting on the fall in crude oil prices. "Oman is pursuing its contacts with other GCC countries to discuss as soon as possible co-ordinating our positions to stop the fall in prices," Romhi was quoted by the official ONA news agency as saying. The GCC members, barring Bahrain and Oman, are also members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The Omani oil minister accusing some oil producers, whom he did not identify, of exceeding their quotas and causing the price fall, urged them to respect their commitments.

### Release of Agents Condemned

Iran's Chief Justice, Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi, criticized the Swiss authorities for releasing four Israeli agents involved in an Israeli secret service

operation in Bern. "What is the Swiss justice system's explanation for releasing four (of the five agents) unless there is a secret agreement with Israel," Yazdi said in a sermon at last Friday prayers at the University of Tehran. Swiss judicial authorities said five Israeli Mossad agents were caught red-handed a week ago trying to install telephone bugging equipment in a house inhabited by foreigners in Bern.

### Indian Election on Internet

Indian election results will be available for the first time on the Internet, poll panel chief M S Gill announced last week in Newdelhi. He said the election commission has already put 6,000 pages of data onto its newly-created website, adding, "we have done this for the first time." He said that poll results and information on individual candidates would be available beginning today.

### Sharif Vows to End Poverty

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said poverty will be eliminated from the country, and people will soon get all basic facilities. Addressing a big gathering during an inspection of the National Highway's section between Hala and Saeedabad near Hyderabad last week, the prime minister said the government was making all out efforts to overcome the problem of unemployment and to eliminate poverty from the country. The prime minister said that the National Highway should be the best highway of the country, but he lamented that he found it in a shabby and dilapidated condition. He directed the authorities concerned to immediately effect the repair of the highway.

### Customs Reforms Needed Before Arab Free-Trade Zone

Before the Arab world can benefit from a long-awaited regional free-trade zone, individual countries will have to implement a drastic reform of customs services and make available accurate trade information, speakers at an international conference in Beirut said last Friday. The barriers posed by the lack of trade information and inefficient customs operations were the central themes of the opening day of the conference, entitled "Industrial institutions in a global environment." The conference was hosted by the delegate of German industry and trade, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), German economic consultants Friedrich Ebert

Stiftung and the Lebanese Industrialists Association (LIA). Although the region's countries have agreed to abolish tariffs between each other at a rate of 10% over a decade, only five (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority) have declared they will implement the agreement.

### Islamic Common Market Proposed

Emergence of trading blocs globally has driven Muslim nations to conceptualize and pursue the creation of an Islamic Common Market (ICM) among Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) member states to provide them with greater access to international markets, expand their employment opportunities and ultimately achieve a higher standard of living for the Muslim world as a whole. As a first step towards this end, a resolution on the ICM was recently drafted by Iran and endorsed by the OIC summit held in Tehran in December 1997. Since then, contrary voices among OIC members have been raised, alleging that the establishment of the ICM is virtually impossible amid a grouping that includes some 55 nations of various commercial capacities and at vastly different stages of economic development. Critics also assert that these nations are infamous for conjuring up grandiose plans that are rarely followed through with practical measures for their achievement.

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## Orbit Weekly Programs

**SPIN MOVIES**

**March 2, 1998**  
10:00 Reckless Kelly  
16:00 All The Winters That Have Been  
22:00 Up Close and Personal

**March 3, 1998**  
14:00 The Secret Garden  
18:00 Richie Rich  
22:00 Rent a Cop

**March 4, 1998**  
10:00 The Long Walk Home  
16:00 The King of Comedy  
22:00 The Lies He Told

**March 5, 1998**  
12:00 The Quest  
15:00 Andre  
00:00 Interview With The Vampire

**March 6, 1998**  
13:00 Little Shop of Horrors  
17:00 Neverending Story 2  
22:00 Grumpy Old Men

**March 7, 1998**  
12:00 Trading Hearts  
19:00 Amazing Panda Adventures  
00:00 Chameleon

**March 8, 1998**  
10:00 Hoop Dreams  
20:00 The Jungle Book  
02:00 Evil Dead II

**March 3, 1998**  
06:30 College Basketball : Texas vs. Texas A&M - Live  
14:00 Premier League Highlights  
21:30 Racehorse Digest

**March 4, 1998**  
11:00 Sportcenter Live  
14:00 NFL Power Week  
23:30 FA Cup 4th Round Replay : Newcastle vs. Stevenage

**March 5, 1998**  
08:00 Gillette Sports Special  
18:00 College Basketball : St. John's vs. Boston College  
23:00 European Football Weekly

**March 6, 1998**  
06:30 College Basketball : Southern Mississippi vs. Turlane - Live  
19:00 Motoworld  
22:00 Road Race of Month

**March 7, 1998**  
04:30 NBA Basketball - New York Knicks at Philadelphia 76ers - Live  
13:30 Bobsleigh Championships  
22:00 Argentine Open Polo Championships

**March 8, 1998**  
07:30 ESPN News Evening  
14:30 Sportcenter Short  
17:30 Dutch Football - FC Twente vs. Ajax - Live

19:00 Musabaqa

**March 5, 1998**  
12:30 Ultra Violet  
14:30 Chain Reaction  
18:00 A Conversation With...

**March 6, 1998**  
09:00 Retro  
13:00 Gloria Estefan "Evolution Tour" Concert  
22:00 1998 Grammy Awards

**March 7, 1998**  
09:00 Retro  
13:00 A Conversation With...Khaled Ali  
18:00 The Rush Hour

**March 8, 1998**  
11:00 Vital Soul  
15:00 Cosmix  
20:00 Mediterrance

**March 7, 1998**  
11:30 Body Moves  
19:00 The Price is Right  
22:00 Celebrity Profiles

**March 8, 1998**  
12:00 Haven  
15:00 E! News Week Daily  
20:00 Jeopardy

**ORBIT NEWS**

**March 2, 1998**  
12:30 CBS Up To The Minute Live  
20:00 ABC Good Morning America  
23:00 CBS 48 Hours

**March 3, 1998**  
06:00 ABC Primetime  
18:00 CBS This Morning  
22:00 ABC 20/20

**March 4, 1998**  
11:00 NBC News Channel Night-side Live  
15:30 NBC News at Sunrise Live  
02:00 American Journal

**March 5, 1998**  
09:30 CBS Evening News  
13:30 ABC World News Now Live  
18:00 CBS This Morning

**March 6, 1998**  
12:30 CBS Up To The Minute Live  
15:30 NBC News at Sunrise Live  
22:00 NBC Dateline

**March 7, 1998**  
11:00 American Journal  
16:00 NBC Weekend Today Show Live  
20:00 CBS 60 Minutes

**March 8, 1998**  
08:20 Rimba's Island  
11:30 Akher Al Koala  
18:05 Superman

**AMERICA PLUS**

**March 2, 1998**  
10:00 Beverly Hills 90210  
14:00 Sunset Beach  
20:00 Flipper

**March 3, 1998**  
09:00 Hanging With Mr. Cooper  
13:00 General Hospital  
21:00 Chicago Sons

**March 4, 1998**  
11:00 Hang Time  
16:30 Step By Step  
20:00 Moesha

**March 5, 1998**  
18:00 Caroline In The City  
21:00 Friends  
22:00 Sienfeld

**March 6, 1998**  
14:00 The Commish  
21:00 Suddenly Susan  
22:00 Spin City

**March 7, 1998**  
12:00 All My Children  
17:00 Beverly Hills 90210  
21:00 Pearl

**March 8, 1998**  
13:00 General Hospital  
18:00 Hang Time  
21:00 Mad About You

**DISNEY**

**March 2, 1998**  
09:55 Gummi Bears  
11:55 Little Mermaid  
21:00 Movie - Mother's Courage - The Mary Thomas Story

**March 3, 1998**  
06:25 Ducktales  
10:25 Welcome to Pooh Corner  
21:00 Tiger Town

**March 4, 1998**  
06:15 Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers  
12:20 100 Lives of Black Jack Savage  
17:00 Movie - Charley and the Angel

**March 5, 1998**  
10:35 Marsupilami  
14:20 Movie - Bride of Boogedy  
21:00 Movie - Swiss Family Robinson

**March 6, 1998**  
11:00 Brand Spanking New Doug  
12:40 Timon & Pumbaa  
21:00 Black Arrow

**March 7, 1998**  
06:40 Darkwing Duck  
14:40 Adventures in Wonderland  
21:00 Movie - Shaggy Dog

**March 8, 1998**  
09:05 Goof Troop  
12:20 Honey I Shrank the Kids  
21:00 Movie - Double Agent

**THE FUN CHANNEL**

**March 2, 1998**  
08:45 Leo and Popi  
13:50 Free Willy  
17:40 The Mask

**March 3, 1998**  
09:55 Barney  
13:00 The Jetsons  
18:30 Batman

**March 4, 1998**  
10:20 New Gummy  
15:30 Tattooed Teenager Alien Fighters  
19:30 Dexter's Lab

**March 5, 1998**  
10:50 Alf Tales  
16:00 Haya Namrah  
20:30 Muppets Tonight

**March 6, 1998**  
09:05 Dumb & Dumber  
12:35 Police Academy  
16:00 The Fun Club - Live

**March 7, 1998**  
07:55 New Adventures of Superman  
11:00 Ahlan Anbar  
15:05 The Fun Channel Movie : The Mask

**March 8, 1998**  
07:00 E! Gossip Show  
13:00 Super Collectors  
20:30 Wheel of Fortune

**THE HOLLYWOOD CHANNEL**

**March 2, 1998**  
07:30 Body Moves  
13:00 Alive  
19:00 The Price Is Right

**March 3, 1998**  
07:00 E! Gossip Show  
13:00 Super Collectors  
20:30 Wheel of Fortune

**March 4, 1998**  
13:30 The Pet Department  
17:30 Preview Theater  
21:30 Judge Judy

**March 5, 1998**  
12:00 Sally Jessy Raphael  
14:00 E! News Weekend  
22:00 Infatuation

**March 6, 1998**  
07:00 Globetrotter  
13:30 Sunshine Cuisine  
18:30 Fashion Emergency

**MUSIC NOW**

**March 2, 1998**  
07:00 Saba Ho  
12:00 In Motion  
18:00 The Rush Hour

**March 3, 1998**  
05:00 Min Aghanihum  
13:00 American Chart Show  
00:00 Music Now Jukebox

**March 4, 1998**  
11:00 360 Degrees - Bryan Adams  
18:00 RSVP Arabic

**ORBIT-ESPN**

**March 2, 1998**  
08:00 FA Premier League : Aston Villa vs. Newcastle  
13:00 NFL's Greatest Moments  
20:30 Saudi League : Al Ahli vs. Al Itihad - Live (Kick off 21:00)

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# Health & Education for the Disadvantaged

The Health and Education Project for Workers and Low-Income Employees of the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning.

The new center was inaugurated on Sunday, February 22nd by the Minister of Construction, Housing, and Urban Planning, Eng. Abdullah Hussein Al-Dafi; the Oxfam coordinator in Yemen, Ms Afrah Al-Ahmedi; and the EU Technical Consultant in Sanaa, Mr. Rainer Freund.

The projects main achievements have been:

- 1- an increase in the number of immunized children in the urban settlements;
- 2- training of a cadre of female health workers;
- 3- teaching literacy skills to a group of women and girls who had not had the chance to go to school due to their social and economic circumstances;
- 4- creating employment opportunities for a group of men and women through a vocational training program; and
- 5- the project acted as a nucleus in encouraging individuals to work together in neighborhood communities or in some cases to establish NGOs to tackle the problems of urban settlement conditions and provide assistance.

**Mr. Abdullah Hussein Al-Dafi, the Minister of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning said:**

This is a very important and vital project. Municipal workers and low-income employees of the Ministry will greatly benefit from it. It is a complete health and education center, providing comprehensive primary health care and medicines almost free of charge.

The Ministry of Construction is eager to have similar centers in other major towns and cities in Yemen. The Ministry's role is to cooperate with the donor organizations by providing plots of land and taking part in designing the project.

We will cooperate with the ministers of Health and Education as well as the Governor of Sanaa to discuss supporting this project and establishing similar ones in other governorates.

Despite this project being relatively small, it serves more than 800 families of the most disadvantaged people.

**Mr. Hussein Al-Miswari, the Governor of Sanaa, said:**

This spectacular project with its beautiful building has been the fruit of cooperation among the European Union, Oxfam, and the Ministry of Construction, Housing, and Urban Planning. All parties concerned must support this project, financially and technically. It is for the good of a large number of disadvantaged people. I hope that it will succeed and similar projects will be established in other parts of the country.

**Mr. Rainer Freund of the EU Technical Office in Sanaa said:**

The project was conceived during 1995. It took quite some time to get it off the ground. The contract was signed in 1996 and we are now at the beginning of 1998. We think it is an extremely cost-effective way of serving the community which is targeted by this particular project. The cost of the project is about \$130,000, serving a community of about 4,000.

The partnership here is quite unique. The Ministry of Construction and Oxfam have provided a lot of stamina and put a lot of effort to implement this project, which is not always easy. Provided we can find such a partnership again, it will be very useful to replicate this project in a similar environment.

**Ms. Afrah Al-Ahmedi, the Oxfam coordinator in Yemen, said:**



The clinic was seen as a starting point for work with the urban settlement population and slum dwellers, who represent the poorest of the poor. These people's living conditions - health, educational, economic and environmental - are appalling. A good

proportion of the Ministry of Construction's municipal workers live in these poor settlements, thus, the relation between Oxfam and the Ministry came about. The center will also provide its services to the Ministry's other low-income employees.

This project was established in 1986 when a clinic was

opened by Oxfam in cooperation with the Ministry. Since many of these people worked as cleaners and municipal workers, the local partner at the time was the then Ministry of Municipalities and Housing, as represented by the General Directorate of Environmental Health (now the Ministry of Construction, Housing, and Urban Planning - represented by the General Directorate of Municipalities and the Environment).

It was found that it would be quite beneficial if some of the health cadre in the projects were members of the communities it served. So health training courses were started for men and women in these poor settlements.

Oxfam does not only deal with the Ministry, but also directly with the target communities. This greatly encouraged people living in these settlements to play greater roles in providing the necessary health and education services.

These people have now formed two NGOs - Amer and Oqba and the Al-Sada (Echo) - to better coordinate efforts with Oxfam working towards building the capacity of these two new NGOs. The ultimate goal is to make the project completely self-reliant, and gradually reduce its dependence on Oxfam. Also, the project's activities can then be extended to all parts of Yemen. This will of course depend on the local partner's ability to continue with the such work and alleviates the burden on the fund provider.

Patients have to pay token fees to get good health care at the center. It is to avoid some people's misuse of the health services if they were provided wholly free. Since the center also provides educational and other services, I feel that other ministries such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health should also get involved. The construction of a permanent



building to host the project activities was made possible by the great efforts of relative Oxfam staff and the financial contributions of the EU and Mr. and Mrs. Webster who thankfully contributed in remembrance of their parents.





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**Fouad Hayel Saeed Anam**



## AL-WAHDAMI

Sanaa weekly, 24-2-98.  
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- The Government is to withdraw local authority draft law from parliament to make new amendments.
- 2- UAE is to finance 2nd stage of Mareb Dam & Zayid Park.
- 3- Opposition Coordination Council submitted its proposed amendments on elections law.
- 4- Iraqi diplomacy has succeeded in exposing US aggressive intentions.
- 5- 18 teachers were arrested last Saturday for going on strike in protest over low pay.

### Article Summary:

#### Collapse of Education System

The Education Committee in parliament has stressed in a recent report the urgency for the government to provide the education system, its utmost attention. The report indicated that in some governments there is a total lack of teachers of very important subjects such as physics, maths, Arabic, and English.

It also drew attention to the crippling bureaucracy in employing new teachers and the large numbers of administrative staff at the Ministry of Education. Headmasters are often arbitrarily appointed, said the report. Financial allocations are seldom enough for maintaining school buildings in good order and



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

providing schools with the necessary facilities.



AL-TAJAMM'U: Aden weekly, 23-2-98.  
(Yemeni Unitary Congregation Party)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemeni teachers suffer from hard living conditions, proposed new teachers law denies them many essential benefits.
- 2- Aden students demonstrate in protest over possible military strike against Iraq.
- 3- General Federation of Workers Trade Unions forced some of the Sawt Al-Ommal (voice of the workers) magazine staff to take vacations without pay, some magazine employees have not been paid their salaries since 1994!
- 4- Aden police arrested a number of suspects in connection with explosion at police station.

### Article Summary:

#### Refugee Tragic Conditions

Many of the Somali refugees that come to the Jaheen refugee camp are infected with TB. They are not quarantined, but allowed to roam freely within the camp. This in addition to chronic malnutrition has led to a TB epidemic in the camp. The camp's clinic is often left without the necessary medicines and medical preparations such as antiseptics and essential vaccines and antidotes. Malaria and diarrhea become rampant during the rainy season. Some patients with chronic or malignant diseases are often left without medicines.

Tens of refugees in the camp are not given proper IDs or provision cards. Many of them demand that a special committee be sent by the UNHCR head office to investigate conditions in the camp.

There are 8,000 refugees registered at the camp, while, in reality only 3,000 actually live there. Food and other provisions are sent for 8,000 people!



AL-SAHWA: Sanaa weekly, 26-2-98.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Teachers staged a successful strike & mass rally in protest over proposed teachers' law.
- 2- (Islah leader) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmer is to return to Yemen following medical treatment abroad.
- 3- Minister of Education stops illegal measures taken against striking teachers, and Minister of Interior ordered release of detained ones.
- 4- An armed thief killed and robbed a man in broad daylight at Hasaba bus terminal.

### Article Summary:

#### A Drunkard's Troubles

A Central Security soldier fired at five men who tried to stop him harassing an old woman in Sheikh Othman, Aden. The soldier, 30, visibly drunk was uttering obscene words while following the old woman in his car. When some passersby tried to stop, he took out his submachine gun and fired at them. One man was wounded in the right hand, while, the other bullets went astray hitting nearby buildings and frightening passersbys.

The drunk was later arrested by the police on the Aden-Taiz road. Citizens in Aden have often complained of the widespread of alcohol sale in the city. They also indicate that alcohol as well as firearms merchants are often protected by security personnel in the area.

AL-THAWRI: Sanaa weekly, 26-2-98.

[Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)]

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Following his East Asia tour, President Saleh: "We shall not remain restricted to Europe and America."
- 2- A number of military personnel are still in detention without trial since Aden bomb explosions last November.
- 3- Authorities in Hadhramaut compensates fraud victims with confiscated YSP property.
- 4- Municipal workers supported by police continue their daily raids on offices of investment companies, especially oil concerns, demanding cleaning fees.
- 5- Parliament questioned Minister of Interior on increasing number of kidnappings of foreigners since 1992.

### Article Summary:

#### Budget & Health Sector

اطيب التهاني والتبريكات للاخ  
ناهل عبدالله سعد الهمام  
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولودا اسماه  
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محمد سعد الهمام,  
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زاهر محمد شرف,  
مروان الشيبني, محمد البيتي,  
عبدالمنعم عمر, محمد محمود,  
معاذ علي الحاج,  
ناصر خليل سالم الشيبني,  
يوسف الشريف

## A Much Deserved Award



A high level meeting of the entire Africa and Middle East Region of Sheraton Hotels recently concluded in Dubai and who else, but Mr. Abdullah Melhem of the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel was chosen as "Best General Manager of the Year 1997" which won him the President's Award. This was no mean achievement as the choice was from among 34 hotels.

**Congratulations Mr. Melhem!**

THE SHERATON SANA'A TEAM IS PROUD TO HAVE YOU AT THEIR HELM.

## Halqa Program for March- April 1998

### MARCH

**Friday the 6th:** Children's morning with paint and clay. Entrance Fee: 150 YR. Time: 10 AM.

**Monday the 9th:** Poetry by Zein Al Abdin Fuad at 5 PM.

**Wednesday the 18th:** Slide show by Adib Chamas at 8 PM. Topic: Yemen.

**Saturday the 21st:** Opening of the exhibition of two Ethiopian artists at 5 PM. Sponsored by the Polish Embassy.

**Thursday the 26th:** Ethiopian music and dance evening at 8 PM. Entrance fee: 400 YR.

### APRIL

**Friday the 3rd:** Children's morning with paint and clay at 10 AM. Entrance fee 150 YR.

**Monday the 6th and 13th:** EID AL ADHA

**Saturday the 18th:** opening of the **African Night.** An exhibition of African art available in Yemen with African music, music from Sudan, and an exhibition of Sudanese artists. Time: 8 PM.

**Tuesday the 28th:** Dance and music from India at 8 PM. Entrance: 400 YR.

Open every day of the week from 4 to 8 PM. Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday open from 10 AM. to 1 PM.

## VACANCIES

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is preparing Sana'a Emergency Power Project, and has requested the World Bank (International Development Association) to finance this project. Part of the financing will be used for Sector Development and Reform Program (SDRP). The responsibilities for the management and coordination of this program is delegated to a Steering Committee (SC). The SC would be supported by a Technical Secretariat (TS).

The SC now seeks applications by qualified and experienced candidates, of Yemeni nationality, for the positions of:

- a) Director, who will head the Technical Secretariat
- b) Power Sector Technical Specialist, working as assistant to the Director of TS.

### Minimum Qualification for Director of TS

- 1) Master's Degree or higher, together with professional qualification relevant to power sector in engineering, economics, finance or public administration.
- 2) Minimum 15 years proven experience in technical, financial or operational management.
- 3) Familiarity with infrastructure project financed by IDA or other development agencies.
- 4) In-depth understanding of the problems facing the power sector in Yemen.
- 5) Capability to manage and administer the activities of the TS.
- 6) Good interpersonal skills.
- 7) Excellent communication skills both in Arabic and English combined with an ability to convey ideas and concepts to senior levels in government institutions and donor agencies.
- 8) Ability to take initiative and assume responsibility for the numerous tasks involved in guiding the reform program.

### Minimum Qualification for Power Sector Technical Specialist

- 1) Master's Degree, together with professional qualification relevant to power sector engineering
- 2) Minimum 10 years experience in technical operations and planning, preferably in power sector authority or utility.
- 3) Excellent communication skills both in Arabic and English combined with an ability to convey ideas and concepts to senior levels in government institutions and donor agencies.
- 4) Experience in the implementation of major power sector infrastructure projects (would be highly appreciated).
- 5) Ability to take initiative and assume responsibility for the numerous tasks involved in guiding the reform program.
- 6) Good interpersonal skills.
- 7) Familiarity with World Bank / IDA procedures, or those of other development agencies.

Applications are to be submitted within one week of this announcement to:

The office of H. E. Minister of Electricity & Water  
Haddah Commercial Center, Block 2  
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## Wahdah Comes 1st in 14th Week

**Sanaa**  
Al-Wahdah of Sanaa managed to gain 3 points to raise its credit to 31 points after 14 weeks into the Excellent-League Football Tournament. Al-Wahdah gained the points when they defeated Al-Tali'a of Taiz last Friday, February 27th, making it 5-3.

With this victory, Al-Wahdah moved into first place with 31 points. The Ahli of Sanaa, who was in first position at the end of the 13th week, was unexpectedly defeated by Al-Zuhra of Sanaa 1-nil last Thursday in Sanaa, thus going down to second place.

**Ibb**  
Shaab Ibb defeated Ittihad Ibb 2-nil, keeping its position with 28 points, just behind Ahli of Sanaa.

**Aden**  
Hassan of Abyan defeated Shamsan of Aden 1-nil, raising its credit to 27 points and securing fourth position. Shamsan of Aden lost a place in the tournament with 7 points.

**Hodeida**  
Tilal of Aden defeated Ahli of Hodeida 2-nil, raising its credit to 18 points. Ahli of Hodeida's credit stayed at 11 points and tenth position.

**Al-Shahr, Hadhramaut**  
Shaab Al-Mukallah tied with Al-Shu'la 1-1. Al-Shu'la is now in fifth position with 22 points.



of Youth and Sport to direct the participation of the juniors team in the championships, which will be held in Qatar and Oman. A directive was issued for all volleyball excellent-league clubs to announce the beginning of the tournament.

### Committee for Volleyball Competitions & Referees Formed

On Thursday, February 26, 1998, the Yemeni Volleyball Association, headed by the President of the association, Mr. Adel Wadi, held its periodical meeting. The association members discussed several issues concerning the sport activities. In addition, they discussed the necessary preparations for the Excellent League General Tournament which will start during April. The session ended with forming a committee for referees and competitions as follows:

1. Mohammed Al-Hashimi, president.
2. Moneer Al-Kaff, secretary.
3. Mohsin Saleh, member.
4. Hussein Awad, member.
5. Abass Qa'ed, member.
6. Faisal Shokrah, member.
7. Mokhtar Abdulkader, member.

During the session, a letter was sent to the Minister

### Education Office Organizes Cultural & Sport Competitions

For the second week, sport and cultural activities continue at the Education and Teaching Office in Sanaa. These activities are organized by the School Activities Administration with 24 teaching centers and 10 private schools participating in the occasion. The preliminary football and volleyball qualifiers resulted in qualifying centers of Amran, Manakha, Hawth, and Omar Bin Abdulaziz School as well as Sanhan for the finals.

Concerning the cultural competitions, 20 schools and teaching centers qualify for the finals which will start on March 3rd.

### FIFA General Investigator in Sanaa

Mr. Datapole Monef, the General Investigator of FIFA, arrived in Sanaa last Thursday on an official visit that may last several days. FIFA charged Mr. Monef with overseeing preparations for the second regional course - the Future Course. The course will be held in Sanaa, April 22-27 to train instructors, coaches, referees and develop sports medicine as well as promote sports activities. FIFA will finance the activities of this course and assign the lecturers.

### Parliament Committee Meets Youth & Sports Directors

The Parliament Committee for Youth and Education paid a visit, the first of its kind, to the Ministry of Youth and Sports last Thursday. The Committee met with the directors in the presence of the Minister of Youth and Sports.

Mr. Khidhr Al-Azzani, MP and former basketball player, said during the meeting that the purpose is to find out the conditions and problems of sports activities so that solutions may be found.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Ahjuri, Assistant Deputy Minister for Sports, explained that after establishing the Youth Fund, the problems of sports activities decreased. From the Youth and Education Committee, the MPs Khidhr Al-Azzani, Mohammed Al-Moqdad, Ibraheem Al-Sooofi and Mohammed Najeeb Seif participated in the meeting.

Yemen Times hopes that such meetings between parliamentarians and the Ministry of Youth and Sports officials will lead to positive results that can improve sports activities in Yemen.

### Sponsored by the Yemeni Olympic Committee, Course to Promote Football Referees in Hadhramaut

As part of the activities of the Supreme Referees Committee of the General Football Association, a promotion course for Hadhramaut referees was opened last Saturday that will last until March 2nd. The international Yemeni lecturer, Ahmed Mohammed Al-Fardi will oversee the course activities from the technical point of view and will examine the 13 referees.

The Supreme Referees Committee director, Mr. Ali

Muthana Razeh, will oversee the course from the administrative point of view.

The Supreme Referees Committee completed the promotion process for 39 new referees last week in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Ibb, Lahaj and Abyan.

### South-Asian Basketball Championship: Minaa Loses 1st Match

Al-Minaa basketball team was defeated by the Jordanian Al-Jazeera team with 70 points. This came during the qualifier matches in the West-Asian Clubs Basketball Championship, which is being held in Jordan. Will the Yemen team be able to present better performances with other teams, such as Lebanon and Iran?

### Hodeida:

### Committee to Test Karate Belts

The Republic Karate Championship will be held on March 16, 1998.

For this purpose, the Hodeida branch of the Karate Association has started last Thursday to test the validity of the athletes' karate belts. This process took place in the closed sports hall in Bait Al-Shabab.

The athletes undergoing the test will participate in the qualifiers of Republic Championship on March 10th as representatives of their clubs. The special testing committee has examined 34 athletes who have different belts. The participants were all registered for the lot drawing which will start on March 9th to decide the weights allowed to participate in the qualifier games.

### Yarmouk & Police Tie

The tournament competitions for the First Class clubs will start on March 14th, 1998. Preparations included a football match between Al-Yarmouk club and the Police club on Al-Yarmouk's grounds last Wednesday.

At the end of the first half, the Police advanced 4-2. But, during the second half, Al-Yarmouk made the result 4-4, ending the game with a tie-in. This was the second meeting between the two teams. They played a match the last week and Al-Yarmouk won 3-nil. Those matches were arranged to qualify the two teams to win in the First Class League qualifiers and enter the Excellent League.

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## REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

### Announcement for Liquidation of Some Public Industrial Enterprises and Factories

Ministry of Industry announces postponed the dates of receiving and opening the envelopes of liquidation of Al-Mansoor weaving and spinning industrial enterprise and tomato paste factory according to the requests of some investors (organizations, companies & individuals) to have the appropriate chance to participate in the liquidation of the above mentioned public enterprise and factory as follows:

1. Last date to receive the sealed tender envelopes at the General Director - Ministry of Industry (Aden Office) at 10:00 A. M of Tuesday, 31st March 1998.
2. Opening the tender envelopes and announcing main indicators of each tender in presence of tenderers and/or their representatives at 11:00 A. M of the above mentioned day and date.

Accordingly, those who are interested (organizations, companies and individuals) to participate in liquidation of the above mentioned public enterprise and factory can obtain the promotional and tender documents which are available at Ministry of Industry - Aden office against non-refundable fees of five thousand Yemeni rials.



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# Ahmed Fat'hi Honored

Ahmed Fat'hi is a musician, singer, composer, and now with his upcoming Masters degree a musicologist. After graduating with a BA. in music from the High Institute of Arab Music, Egypt in 1980, Fat'hi had to leave Yemen to pursue his musical career in the United Arab Emirates.

Ahmed Fat'hi, around thirty, has written a large number of musical compositions for a whole host of love songs and patriotic poems. He has recently visited Yemen to attend his official honoring ceremony in Sanaa. On this occasion, Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing

Editor, met Mr. Fat'hi to talk about his past achievements and future aspirations.

**Q: How does it feel to be honored by your own country at last?**

**A:** It is quite an incentive to do more. I have been previously honored by France in 1993, Egypt, Britain, the US 8 years ago, Oman and a few other Arab and foreign countries. All that have been very nice and gratifying, but to be honored by one's own country is something completely different. The speech given by the Minister of Culture was quite emotive. It almost made me cry.

I hope all the creative people in this country are honored as I have been. I can mention many names who are all highly creative such as the great maestro Mohammed Saad Abdullah who is really a school in singing all his own.

**Q: Why did you leave Yemen?**

**A:** I left Yemen because of my love for art. Had I stayed here, I would not have been able to achieve what had in mind. I had to pursue my ambitions elsewhere. Although I left Yemen physically, the country has always remained within my soul.

**Q: Doesn't Yemen have the necessary resources to develop the arts?**

**A:** I'd say that it is somewhat difficult to realize one's ambitions here in this country. The general climate is just not ready. There

are nor musical bands, no recording studios, no art media, i.e., all the things required to nurture a budding talent are lacking here.

**Q: Are Yemeni songs known outside Yemen?**

**A:** Yes, very much so. As a matter of fact, Yemen songs are quite popular in the Arabian Peninsula, whether performed by Yemeni or other Arab singers.

**Q: How can an artistic renaissance be accomplished in Yemen?**

**A:** The state must adopt a well-drawn plan to give great prominence to Yemeni art. Practical steps must be taken in this direction, not just empty talk. A lot of funds are also required towards this end.

**Q: What are your future plans?**

**A:** The art world is now moving toward what is called intellectual music, which we still don't have in the Arab World. So now I'm in the process of composing some orchestral symphonic pieces in Europe. I'll start with two works which I'll personally finance. It'll be pure music in which the traditional "ud" will be the center piece. This is going to be a personal experiment in which I'll bear the risk since record companies are only willing to do love songs and the like. These two pieces of orchestral music will be distributed as samples to record companies in Europe and the

Arab World. Hopefully, someone will be enthusiastic enough to sponsor a bigger project. I'd have liked to produce a complete album, but the cost is just too high.

**Q: Have you listened to any promising Yemeni singers?**

**A:** I'm afraid that I didn't have the chance to meet or hear of any new Yemeni singers. But I hope such new talents are supported by the Ministry of Culture and the state in general.



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