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## Yemen Tries to Keep Its Distance As the Eritrea-Ethiopia War Rages On!

Eritrean and Ethiopian ministers and other envoys have been shuttling back and forth into the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. The purpose is to "explain" their viewpoint on the on-going war



Illustrated by Anwar Al-Sayyadi - Yemen Times

between the two neighbors, and to try to win sympathy. The Yemenis have been urging patience and restraint on both sides. The authorities in Sanaa are apprehensive of an escalation in the conflict.

"This war serves nobody. It only leads to disaster and more suffering," a source at the Presidential office announced. Moreover, Yemen is worried about the possibility of a new wave of refugees flooding its shores. It has yet to recover from the Somali wave of refugees. "We are also worried because a solution to the war could bring foreign forces to the region," the source added.

Meanwhile, Eritrea and Ethiopia continue to fight over a 400 square kilometer barren area, Eritrea, which started this war, also has military disputes with all its other neighbors - Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen

## First NGO Conference Starts Tomorrow with Strong Local/Foreign Participation

President Ali Abdullah Saleh is expected to personally inaugurate the First NGO Conference which starts in Sanaa tomorrow, Tuesday, June 16th. Delegations from Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other countries have already arrived. The First NGO General Conference which is a 3-day gathering is expected to breathe new momentum and impetus into the NGO movement of Yemen. "We believe this event to be a watershed in the role of NGOs in the country. We hope we can evolve a new partnership between the NGOs on the one hand, and the government and

the private sector on the other," said Professor Al-Saqqaq, the President of the conference and himself an active NGO leader. One of the key objectives of this conference is to provide a forum for cooperation between international and Yemeni NGOs. "We hope the two sides will discuss opportunities and options for cooperation," Al-Saqqaq added. Indeed, some observers have started describing the conference as a market place. The international NGOs and their sponsors will present the policies and priorities (for financing and cooperation). The Yemeni NGOs will present their projects and ideas. The hope is that new partner-

ships will come out of this conference. A total of 500 NOGs participate in the conference.

Program on page 8

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Is the CC Biting More than It Can Chew

## Permanent Committee at the CC to Address Blood Vengeance

So President Ali Abdullah Saleh is serious about addressing the issue of violence and vengeance among the public. What does he do? He assigns the job of handling this very difficult and intricate responsibility to the Consultative Council (CC). The President wrote a 3-page letter authorizing the CC to form a permanent committee to do many things including:

- 1) To collate data on the causes of vengeance-related violence, and formulate plans to stem this phenomenon.
- 2) To evaluate the CC's past achievements in this regard.
- 3) To prepare media programs to raise public awareness on the issue.

- 4) To follow-up the work of law-enforcement agencies, and question negligent and lax officials.
- 5) To work within the laws and customs regulating the payment of blood-money, after a final Supreme Court decision is reached.
- 6) To communicate with the relevant organs to help shorten court procedures.
- 7) To work on introducing tribal rules preventing them from giving shelter to fugitives.
- 8) To communicate with the government, with full authority, to help establish peace and security.
- 9) To start its activities at the beginning of July, 1998.

- 10) To form sub-committees in various governorates and directorates to investigate the causes of vengeance incidents.

The Consultative Council held a difficult discussion as to whether the task fell within its own mandate. Even more importantly, the members questioned whether they had the ability to handle the job. At the end, however, they agreed to form a 9-man committee. The new committee's first assignment is to prepare a report on what it needs to do the job. Yemen, whose population is said to possess more than 50 million rifles and guns, has a major problem with vendetta violence.



دعي أرز القصر الذهبي  
ينور مائدتك



## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Yemen Pays a Price of a Difficult Neighborhood!

There we go again! More refugees are beginning to land on Yemeni soil, as the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict escalates. The unfortunate developments between our two neighbors in the Horn of Africa are affecting us negatively, again. That proves we have a stake in a peaceful and early solution to this war, that could easily get out of hand.

In the past, Yemen had paid a heavy price because of problems in the region. We have had Eritrean refugees and guests since the beginning of their war of independence, over 30 years ago. Then we received Ethiopian refugees and guests when that country witnessed a long and painful civil war. Then we received lots of Sudanese as that country underwent internal upheavals. Of course, we received tens of thousands of refugees from Somalia as that country disintegrated. Many of the people who had come as refugees have returned. But quite a few have stayed on.

Today, the country risks receiving another wave of refugees, unless the rapidly deteriorating situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia is brought under control. Unfortunately, Yemen is a poor country, and it cannot afford to provide for the needs of the refugees. The contribution of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has been vital, but not enough.

Both Eritrea and Ethiopia are also poor and badly underdeveloped countries. It is really sad that whatever meager resources exist are now channelled for the war machines in both countries. Territorial claims must be settled through negotiations and dialogue. The two countries, especially Eritrea, which now has territorial disputes with all of its neighbors, must learn that violence and military confrontations do not bring about lasting solutions.

But Yemen also suffers from another problem in this neighborhood. Here also, we have been paying high prices. As a democratizing nation - which accepts such values as political pluralism, press freedom, a larger participation of the general population in public life, regular elections, etc. - we are constantly on the receiving end because many of our neighbors have yet to accept these same values. Thus, whenever our efforts in applying these values falters or does not succeed fully, some of our neighbors use the occasion to throw water on our democratization process. I personally remember a senior member of the ruling family of Saudi Arabia urging Yemeni officials not to hold any more elections.

Of course, one does not choose his/her neighbors. Yemen has just to make the best of the situation.

But the world community has a duty to help Yemen withstand these difficulties. In addition, it could play a constructive role to make ours a better neighborhood. This is important for two reasons: (a) for regional stability and peace; and (b) Yemen's experience, if successful, will serve as a model for other nations, even beyond this region.

In the meanwhile, let us pray that the leaders of this region do not push us into more violent upheavals. Amen!

**The Publisher**  


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#### Explosion in Hawta

A bomb went off at about 6pm on Saturday, 13 June at Al-Hawta marketplace in the Governorate of Lahaj, announced a source at the Ministry of the Interior.

According to eyewitness accounts, the perpetrator, probably from the village of Al-Daba, was seen reaching underneath his belt - pretending to take some money out; while in fact he detonated the bomb.

In addition to the culprit, 5 people were killed and 8 were injured - 3 seriously.

#### Anti-Drug Agreement Signed

On Wednesday, 11 June at the Arab League HQ in Cairo, Yemen signed the 'Arab Agreement to Fight the Trading in Drugs and Narcotics,' which was previously adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior on 15 January, 1994. The agreement will go into effect on 30 June, 1998.

#### RC Training in Hodeida

The First Summer Training Course, organized by the Red Crescent Society, started on Thursday, 12 June in Hodeida. The 45 participants in the course, scheduled to go on until 29 June, are to receive lectures and practical training lessons on the first-aid, public-health awareness, and preventive medicine.

#### Halaqa Exhibition Opened

A fine arts exhibition was opened on Saturday, 13 June at the Halaqa House in Sanaa. Scheduled to remain open until 26 June, the exhibition includes 83 paintings by Yemeni and international artists depicting various aspects of Yemeni life, culture, people and architecture.

#### Yemeni-Turkish Protocol

The National Documents Center of Yemen and the State's Archives Center of Turkey signed a protocol of cooperation on Monday, 8 June at the Turkish capital, Ankara.

#### Yemen-Moroccan Information Exchange

An agreement of information exchange and media cooperation was signed by Yemen and Morocco on Friday, 12 June at the Moroccan capital, Rabat. The agreement includes the exchange of media programs in the fields of culture, economy, social issues and sport. Also, both countries will broadcast special programs on each others national day. The exchange of newspaper and publication distribution is also in the pipeline.

#### Japan Debts Rescheduled

The government of Japan has agreed with the government of Yemen on the re-scheduling of the Yemeni debts payable to Japan on the basis of the conclusions reached at the Paris Club meeting on 19 and 20 November, 1997. This is the 2nd agreement of its kind between the two governments.

Yemeni debts to Japan which amount to approximately \$20 million, 96% of which is owed to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, will be paid by 48 semi-annual installments beginning on 1 November, 2015, with a 1% interest rate. The remaining sum - the commercial debt insured by the government of Japan will be paid by 66 semi-annual installments beginning on 1 November, 1999.

## Scholarships US Embassy & Society of Yemeni Graduates of Fulbright Scholarships Program

The United States Information Service (USIS) in Sanaa and the Society of the Yemeni Fulbright Scholarships Pogrom Graduates presents a limited number of academic scholarships and fellowships for Yemenis wishing to study in the US. They are as follows:

#### Masters Degree

There are scholarships for masters degrees in the US in all fields except medicine and engineering disciplines. The applicant should:

- 1- score 500 or more in TOEFL;
- 2- have a bachelor degree.

For more details, please contact the AMIDEAST office in Sanaa on 416-975 or 203-588. Applications should be sent to the AMIDEAST office at YALI, Baghdad Street, up to 15 July, 1998.

#### Fellowship Degree

The applicant should:

- 1-have a PhD and wishes to conduct further research on his/her speciality;
- 2-give precise details about the topic of his/her proposed research.

For more information, please contact USIS on 238-819/20. The last date for receiving the applications is 15 July, 1998.

#### Hubert Humphrey Friendship Scholarships Program

There are scholarships for one year for conducting an academic study and undergoing specialized training in an American university (none degree). The applicant should:

- 1- score 600 in TOEFL;
- 2- have an experience of no less than 5 years in public service in such fields as economy, journalism, banking & finance, public health, natural resource management, environmental & political management.

For more details please contact USIS on 238-819/20 at the US embassy. Last date for receiving applications is 15 July, 1998.

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Dr. Al-Murtadhah Al-Mohatwari:

# “The President can crown his great unification achievement by controlling corrupt officials.”

Dr. Al-Murtadha Bin Zayd Al-Mohatwari is a renowned, and sometimes controversial, reformist of the Zaydi sect in Yemen. Coming from a family of religious and language scholars, Al-Mohatwari, 43, went on to study jurisprudence and Arabic in Sanaa. He later received a masters and a Ph.D. degree with distinction from Cairo University - the Ph.D. being in the subject of slander and defamation in Islam.

In addition to the religious school and research and studies center (Al-Badr Scholastic and Cultural Center) he owns and runs in Sanaa, Dr. Al-Mohatwari is also a lecturer in the Sharia and Law College at Sanaa University.

Al-Mohatwari's opinions and calls for reform are regarded by many as unorthodox and quite controversial, bringing upon him the wrath of both the establishment and other rival Islamic groups.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to Dr. Al-Mohatwari at Al-Badr Center and filed the following interview. Excerpts:

**Q: Could you tell a bit about Al-Badr Center?**

**A:** Most people nowadays go to school or university not for gaining knowledge, but merely to get a degree and be employed, if possible. Public employment has suppressed genius. Islam encourages and urges his follower to seek knowledge wherever they can.

I founded Al-Badr Center and opened its doors to all students who wish to study and reside in it. My ambition is to establish an institution capable of creating great scholars and interpreters of Islamic Sharia, who are able to move on with the times. I try not to overlook the rapid scientific and social developments in our society and the world at large.

Al-Badr Center, established 10 years ago, includes a computer center, a library, a small farm and a mosque with a capacity of 15,000 people. The center also has a special interest in women issues.

I want people to understand that Islamic studies are not pure theology, but a live science.

**Q: How many students are there?**

**A:** There are 150 students in the boarding section and 250 day students studying at primary and preparatory education levels and at the first and second grades of the secondary-school level. The third grade of secondary school and even university levels will be opened in the near future.

**Q: How is the center financed?**

**A:** Myself and other philanthropists paid the initial expenses and still fund the center. Many of the students with professions and vocations contribute a lot to the upkeep of the center. I'd like to seize this opportunity to emphasize the fact we do not receive any assistance from any foreign sources, as some people would like to insinuate.

The state "helps" from time to time by sending troops to bomb the place. Last time the President did not know about it until after the incident. All we want is to be left in peace to conduct our research and studies.

**Q: Who was then behind the problems and attacks to which you were subjected?**

**A:** I am very sorry to say that they were elements belonging to the Islah party. If the party does not really condone their acts, why are they still within its ranks? Almost every problem we face is caused by Islahi people, who appear hidden behind many disguises, but we know them all. I call them to have face-to-face, civilized discussions in order to be able to find out who is the errant.

**Q: Why would the Islah party cause you all this trouble?**

**A:** I really do not know what their problem is. I asked permission from the President himself to establish this center, which I did through sheer personal efforts. I sometimes complain to Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmer, who has all the noble characteristics of a Yemeni man. He is very responsive.

I really do not want to be involved in inter-sectarian violence and strife. I am just a mosque speaker, a philanthropist and have a study and research center. If they have any objections on any religious grounds, then we can discuss it. Why resort to violence?

**Q: Which Islamic sect do you primarily follow in your teachings?**

**A:** I very much admire the Zaydi sect for it encompasses the best of other sects. We actually study and teach the Sharia interpretations of Imam Al-Shafi'i more than we do the teaching of Imam Zayd - the founder of the Zaydi sect.

Followers of the Zaydi sect respect the opinions and faith of others, and tend to be eclectic. They adopt the teachings of other imams if enough evidence points to their suitability. Zaydism exhort people to stand up to oppression and say the truth, irrespective of the consequences. Zaydism is a revolutionary creed, a fact which gets into trouble with oppressive regimes and tyrants. It is always in the opposition. In the end, we are all human beings, whether Muslim or Christians, striving for the good of humanity.

**Q: Can we call you a reformist of the Zaydi sect?**

**A:** Zaydism has been misunderstood throughout the ages, and its heritage is often destroyed or lost. I want this creed to gain its due status and recognition. Some people, unfortunately, think that the Zaydi sect is a relic of the overthrown regime of the Imam, which is not true. There are numerous good teachings in Zaydism, worthy to be adopted by Muslims from other creeds.

**Q: What is the relation between Zaydism and other Shiite sects?**

**A:** Shiite in Arabic means a group with a certain loyalty. It was used to describe the people who declared their allegiance to Imam Ali [Mohammed's son-in-law and 7th century martyr] in his conflict with Moawia - the contender to the Khalifate. Some Shiite ideas are extremist, which must be rejected. But the Shiite Muslims in Iran and other countries, for example, represent an added credit to the Islamic nation.

**Q: What reference books do you rely on in your studies and reformist efforts?**



Shwakani's books are standard text-books at Al-Azhar University just because they criticize the Zaydi beliefs.

**Q: What problems do you face in your work?**

**A:** The most major problem is aggression by others. I am regarded as an enemy by most of the Islah members. Why? I do not know. Other difficulties are of a financial nature.

Some students come from the countryside without any resources, whatsoever. I feel very sad when I cannot help them.

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

**A:** Our primary plan is to collect, re-organize and re-publish the Zaydi heritage so that it becomes a standard university curriculum, especially in Al-Azhar of Egypt. This precious heritage should not remain within the confines of long-forgotten books and libraries. The manuscripts we have are threatened with disintegration and being lost forever. We have put all our resources to restoring and re-publishing these manuscripts.

I hope that Al-Badr Center be recognized and accredited by the state. I also plan to expand the center and open new departments for manuscript restoration.

Opening a private university and a mother and child health center is also on our agenda.

**Q: How do you evaluate the current political sit-**

uation in Yemen?

**A:** Yemeni officials seem to be more concerned with external than internal issues. They are trying to polish the country's image by hosting regional and international forums and gatherings; while, internal conditions are deteriorating. Who is responsible for all this?

The President is a 100% responsible. He is the first person responsible for this country, in front of God and the people. He has borne and is still bearing the trust. We ask God to help him in his task.

**Q: What are the possible solutions for the deteriorating circumstances?**

**A:** The solution is to start by correcting ourselves. The President's

name will forever be linked to the glorious unification of Yemen. Why not crown this great achievement by returning the money stolen by corrupt officials to the people? He will find all the Yemeni people ready to sacrifice for this noble goal. The President is the only person capable of putting a decisive end to the deteriorating situation.

**Q: Do you feel optimistic?**

**A:** I know that the President is a courageous man, who does what he says.

**Q: Any last word?**

**A:** I hope not to be alone in my endeavor and really wish others would join me to make the world a better place.

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١	محمد	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٢	علي	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٣	أحمد	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٤	فاهد	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٥	عبدالله	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٦	سعيد	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٧	عبدالمجيد	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٨	عبدالحق	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٩	عبدالله	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٠	عبدالله	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١١	عبدالله	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٢	عبدالله	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٣	عبدالله	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٤	عبدالله	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٥	عبدالله	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٦	عبدالله	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٧	عبدالله	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٨	عبدالله	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
١٩	عبدالله	تعز	٥٢٧٤	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨
٢٠	عبدالله	صنعاء	٣٨٠٣	٩٨٧٦٥٤٣٢١	من هو بطل كأس العالم ٩٨

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# Courts With No Judicial Instruments

By Hussain Al-Hubaishi\*

## A. Every Judge's Sharia

By the title above we mean every judge has his own interpretation of Sharia. That was the situation until 1978 and it still exists, where in certain fields of legislation the rules of law are blurred or not yet legislated.

In Islamic jurisprudence there are many jurists and commentators of different schools whose rich opinions differ markedly from one another. I knew of similar cases or of the same case which were judged in different manners according to the domicile of the court, whether it is Taiz, Sanaa or Sa'ada. In addition to that, there are "freelance" jurists who are prepared to annul or reverse any judgment based on Sharia by means of dexterity. From the time of the Kingdoms (Khalifats) of the Umayyates, Sharia became a human embodiment depending on the jurists' beliefs, thoughts and was sometimes used as a process literally leading to authority.

Hence, codification of Sharia was the compromising solution to be worked upon Sharia which was fundamental to the creation of a relatively modern state. Generally by codification, we mean the legal term usually employed to refer to the reduction of certain rules or principles of Sharia to a more or less certain organized and written forms through a comprehensive piece of legislation.

In Yemen since the issuance of law no.4 of 1975, codification continued unabated except for certain intervals because of political turmoil. Thus laws in the fields of civil, commercial or penal matters were enacted and composed in a manner which would be sufficiently clear not only to judges (qadhis) but also to lawyers, administrative officials and perhaps to citizens. It may be interesting to quote the guiding principle for codification as stipulated in law 7 of 1975, which runs as follows:

The member (of the committee) shall make use of Al-Ijtihad (interpretation) of all schools that



follow the soundest opinion depending on abstract and universal Islamic jurisprudence and the general principles which deals with new legal situations."

In this respect, I am not saying that at this moment everybody is happy with the process of codification. Some qadhis, while not necessarily feeling constrained to pronounce matters of codified laws, are not unwilling to inform themselves of their provisions and to apply them when necessary. Other radical judges and lawyers are still pressing for well known certain progressive and simply drafted legal rules. There are other reasons for dissatisfaction, exemplified by the need to codify more rules and principles which have been codified in a vague manner obliging any student of law to refer to the old scripts of Islamic jurists and commentators. One more irritating subject to the young judges and lawyers is the constant reference of laws enacted by parliament to Sharia in general, by adding to many provisions of laws the term "according to the principles of Shaira."

## B. Laws With No Procedure.

The subject of procedure or adjective law has taken on special importance because the line of demarcation between substance and procedures in Yemen is difficult to fix.

Until 1976 there were few statutory laws in the North or even few regulations to cover pro-

cedure. But since 1976 and at the time of the British rule in Aden and after, many laws and regulations have been promulgated and revoked or amended.

Our concern is the present day or since Yemen Unity has been reinstated, whereupon we find many judicial instances with no strict application of rules of procedure, either in pre-trial proceeding or during pleading terms. We notice also that judges are greatly influenced by the inquisitorial character of litigation, whereby certain lawyers make use of adversary tactics and interlocutory injunctions to frustrate due process of law. Before that stage borders of competence and jurisdiction are obscure especially in matters of commerce.

Though judgments on lengthy scrolls are decreasing, most judgments and awards are issued without reasoning of facts and law. And the worst comes of hearings and pleas taking place in certain judges' residences without giving a chance to rejoinders or replications to be submitted; there are other cases whereupon the court of execution may look into the facts of the case and review the whole case anew.

On the other hand, those judges who abide by rules of procedure are foiled by lack of procedural instruments imperative for courts. There are no proper archive files, references, libraries, clerk authentication or notarization. Judges are not even provided with the law gazette regularly, the result of which is the delay in case hearings; and perhaps impediment of justice.

## C. Judges With No Institutions & Other Frustrating Factors

Here is a general outline for the situation concerning the judges and their judicial institutions. In addition to the shortcomings suffered by judges in towns and cities of Yemen, judges in the countryside are deprived of means of communication; private or public, and of decent houses or lodgings. They lack qualified

payments to be made to the contractors.

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### F- Closing Date:

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clerks and are short of even stationary materials. The court buildings are anything but adequate. In the countryside they are far worse to be described.

If we turn our attention to the judicial or semi-judicial institutions at the hierarchical top, they do not fair better. The "Judicial Inspection Board," as its chairman said: "Is not given the necessary resources to do its job. It is not even given the full authority to inspect the undertakings of the supreme court. The inspectors have no means of travel or documentation of information and cases." Yet one of the bad practices of the Inspection Board in the old days, is its inclination to act as a rebuttal organ and a body of appeal.

The supreme court (Court of Cassation) as a whole is supposed to be the highest judicial body of the land, but actually its chair-judge runs the show through interfering in lower court proceedings, transferring cases from one bench to another and accepting judicial review of cases almost unconditionally. The Minister of Justice or the ministry at certain times fair less in the process of intrusion and supervision of the judiciary by way of indication or directing execution of judgments. Even worse is the case where the Supreme Judicial Council is a part-time body granting rights and privileges to judges and administers their disciplines and dismissals. Yet most of the time the council or its acting-head act as a full-time administrative, executive and judicial body giving directives and instructions to judges and courts alike.

The consequential corruption of

most of the judicial system is a logical conclusion to the above mentioned misbehavior or shortcomings. Administrative corruption manifested itself through judges' abstinence from the Bench, prolonging hearings and sometimes included the parties to attend hearings taking place in the judge's residence. Monetary corruption is initiated by means of bribing down-graded clerks of the court and through them, directly buying off underpaid or greedy judges with incentives, inducement money and bribes. The outcome of this is the hue and cry against the judiciary and the irreverence or disrespect for judges.

In my opinion, I disagree with those reformers who blame the judges for such plight and think of reforming the judiciary at the top. Firstly, I believe that the reform should begin by re-educating, training and post qualifying most of the judges and guaranteeing their rights and privileges. As such, reform can begin from the bottom where most of the judges are found in rural and other urban areas.

## D. Reluctant Judicial Reforms

We may attempt to classify those reforms intended for the judiciary in Yemen into three categories. Since 1974, in the north of Yemen, certain reformers tried the dogmatic approach; old is bad, new is good. To their belief old judges must be discharged and new graduates of universities must take their places and positions. In the south around that time, the left took over the reigns of government and tried to apply the same dogma.

From the eighties until today, reformers believing in the theoretical approach tried their hand. They believed then and still believe in the dilatory long-term planning for the whole judiciary and reforms taking place hierarchically. This approach exposed their aims to those with

invested interests and those reformers never left square one when they were shaken off by the old guards. Nowadays they are having their second chance; we hope that they have learnt their lesson and wish them success.

The third category can be called the realistic approach. It started earlier in the mid-seventies and still has some supporters today among those who participated in the trial then. The reformers who follow this approach combined, to a certain extent, some of the norms of the first and second approaches. On the first hand they believe in introducing a number of graduates of law and Sharia to the judiciary without getting rid or dismissing all the old thinking or the old age of the judges. These reformers on the other hand believe in planning but in a piece-meal manner without exposing their long term plans of reforms. One of their means is establishing specialized courts in commerce, administration, finance and constitutional matters with specialized graduates of law in these fields. Without infringing on the theoretical unity of the judiciary to any degree, they contemplate. When the regular courts are affected by the examples of modern courts, then and only then the principle of juridical unitary will be held.

As a matter of fact there are few courts or benches left which are composed partially of university graduates but they are neither immune from the over-all picture of corruption or from the visible abuse of the system. The first and real escape from this unsatisfying situation took place in 1976 with the Commercial Courts.

\*Mr. Al-Hubaishi is one of the architects of the legal system of Yemen. He has served as Minister of State for Legal Affairs, adviser to the President, deputy PM for legal affairs and many other senior positions.

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#### B- Detailed TOR:

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2. Analyze and vet the offers received from the private contractors and, on the basis of agreed criteria, select the best offers and private contractors.
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4. Assign a resident engineer/technician for each cluster of targeted schools to supervise the work of the private contractors on a day-to-day basis.
5. Take all necessary measures and steps to ensure the private contractors' adherence to standard technical specifications and the agreed implementation schedules.
6. Certify the satisfactorily and technically sound completion of the different phases of the work of the private contractors and advise UNICEF on the appropriate

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

# The Kidnappers in Our Midst



**Dr. Salah Haddash, Ph.D. Law (France),  
Professor of Human Rights**

The problem is compounded by the practice of some tribes of the age-old tradition of giving refuge to fugitives - read kidnappers. The program states: 'Those who give refuge or assistance to fugitives are to be punished.'

#### The Phenomenon

According to Ministry of Interior statistics, the total number of reported kidnapping incidents that took place between April, 1991 and April 1998 were 64. The total number of individuals kidnapped in these incidents was 124.

The incidents took place in the following governorates:

Sanaa City	26
Sanaa outskirts	8
Mareb	9
Dhamar	6
Shabwa	5
Abyan	5
Baidha	1
Saada	1
Aden	1
Amran	1
Hadhrumaut	1

It is noticed that most kidnappings took place within the borders of Sanaa City, indicating

a marked lapse of security in the capital where the seat of government is. In second place comes Mareb with its unruly and disadvantaged tribes.

Only one incident took place in each of the other governorates such as Baidha, Saada, Aden, Amran, and Hadhrumaut. This indicates that kidnapping is not really a phenomenon there, a fact that cannot be readily explained because some of the places are large cities such as Aden while others are remote and tribal areas like Saada.

#### Nationalities

The majority of kidnapped foreigners (46 individuals), were French - including one diplomat, followed by 22 Yemenis, 11 Germans, 6 British and 5 Americans and 5 Polish. Other nationalities had less than 3 people kidnapped. There were 7 females including 3 children with their mothers among the hostages.

#### Reasons for Kidnapping

The reasons behind these kidnapping incidents vary from one case to another. Purportedly it was because the tribes people had some grievances or unanswered demands with the central govern-

ment. Such demands included directing the attention of foreign countries or the Yemeni government to their need for basic services such as water, electricity, health care, education, etc. Or in some cases, the tribesmen demanded the release of an imprisoned kinsman from detention.

It is also alleged that some neighboring countries have had a hand in instigating such incidents so as to discredit and destabilize Yemen for their own ulterior political motives. This has not been fully proven yet.

There is no doubt that the widespread of licensed and unlicensed firearms is one of the main factors that helped increase kidnapping and hostage taking in this country.

#### Position of the State

The position taken by the state in such cases is usually not decisive, as the authorities give in to the tribes' demands in order to propitiate them into releasing the hostages. Some kidnappers and would-be kidnappers get the wrong impression that its 'alright' to take foreign hostages and demand a ransom, be it personal or for the tribe as a whole. So they commit more abductions without the slightest of guilt.

Despite the fact that no hostage was seriously harmed, the "taking of guests," as it is known in tribal

parlance, is still a crime punishable by law.

#### Yemeni Customs & Law

According to the Yemeni tribal Seventy Rules - customary law - individuals are guaranteed the freedom of movement and public roads must be made safe and secure. The rules also stipulate that the protection of individual lives and property is the duty of all tribes. The majority of Yemeni tribes still respect and fully observe these rules, except for a few renegade tribesmen. Moreover, no taxation of any kind or under any justification should be levied on passing travelers and caravans. Breaking these rules is punishable according to tribal customs and as the tribes concerned see fit.

The Yemeni Penal Law stipulates a maximum of 5 years imprisonment as a punishment for kidnapping and abduction. If the kidnapped is a female, a juvenile or a mentally handicapped person, the no less than 7 years imprisonment is stipulated. If physical harm or torture is done to the hostage, the prison term is increased to a maximum of 10 years (Article 249, Law No. 12 Concerning Crime and Punishment).

However, the state is not able to enforce the law, a thing that can be regarded as a violation in itself since it shows that the state

does not respect its laws. These culprit tribesmen are Yemenis committing a crime on a Yemeni soil, so they should be punished according to the Yemen laws and legislations. Not punishing them implies that they are above the law and encourages them to carry out more abductions.

#### Solutions

The official media has been extolling the intended draft law to combat kidnapping as a major solution to this problem. This is illogical since there is already a sufficient but unenforced article in the Yemeni Penal Law dealing with this issue.

Remote areas in Yemen should be fully developed and supplied with the basic services and infrastructures. The general public must be made fully aware of the necessity and benefit of resorting to the law to solve their problems and address their grievances. The should be the use of peaceful means such as letters of petition and peaceful demonstrations.

Charities and other NGOs should be established to help develop disadvantaged areas by popular donations and contributions and through lobbying the government to answer their demands.

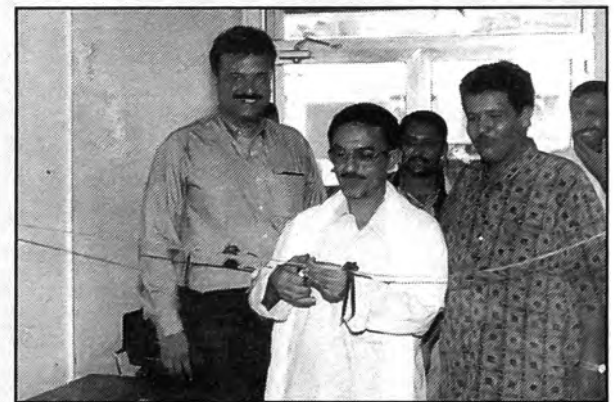
The media should air the grievances of these people and help bring them to light and official and public attention.

## Universal Trading & Investment Co. Inaugurates Philips Showroom in Aden

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Mr. Salem M. Al Saadi inaugurates PHILIPS Showroom in Aden



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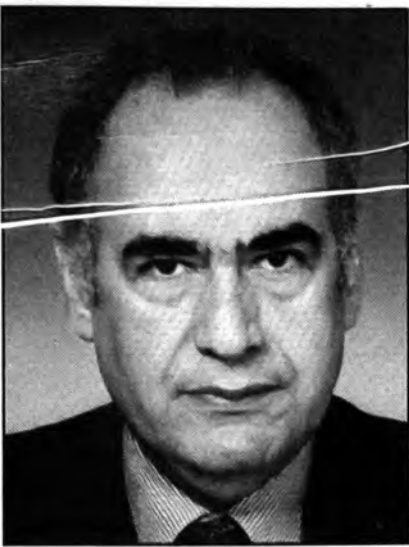


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# ICARDA Consolidates Cooperation with Yemen

Established in 1977, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA). It is one of the 16 centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is an international group of representatives of donor agencies, eminent agricultural scientists, and institutional administrators from developed and developing countries who guide and support its work. The CGIAR is co-sponsored by the World Bank, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). ICARDA's research provides benefits for poverty alleviation through productivity improvements, integrated with sustainable natural resource management practices. Much of ICARDA's research is carried out on a 948-hectare farm at its headquarters at Tel Hadya, about 35 km southwest of Aleppo, Syria.

**Agriculture in Yemen**  
The agricultural sector in Yemen contributes about 20% to GDP. It

has been growing at an average annual rate of just over 2%, not sufficient to keep pace with the population growth of 3.7%. Agriculture has also been a traditional mainstay of employment in Yemen, although decreasing in historical terms. The proportion of the population engaged in agriculture fell from 80-90% in the 1970s to about 50% in the late 1990s. A total of about 1.5 million hectares is under arable land and permanent crops. Additional areas of up to 2 million hectares are cultivated in marginal lands during high rainfall years. Rangelands cover a further 16 million hectares supporting almost seven million small ruminants. About 75% of agricultural land is rain-fed. Cereals dominate and occupy about 60-80% of the cultivated area. The percentage contribution of different components to the agricultural sector are crops 74%, livestock 18%, fisheries 5% and forest 3%. Yemen is one of the most water scarce countries in the world, and existing water supplies are being rapidly depleted by increasing demands from a growing population and an expanding agricultural sector. Agriculture utilizes nearly 85% of the water consumed. Ground water exploitation has proceeded unabated by rapidly exhausting the aquifers. It is estimated that in highlands, ground water is being mined at such a rate that large parts of the rural economy could disappear within a generation. Environmental degradation in the form of

encroachment of sand dunes, soil erosion and abandonment of terraces and deforestation has also added to the problem.

**Yemen & ICARDA**  
The partnership between Yemen and ICARDA dates back since ICARDA's inception. Several Yemeni scientists and technicians underwent long and short-term training at ICARDA HQ in Aleppo. Until 1988, a total of 40 Yemeni scientists participated in various training courses on different disciplines such as plant breeding pathology, agronomy, weed control, socio-economics, farm management and seed production. The partnership was later strengthened in 1988 when Yemen became a member of the ICARDA-implemented regional project for strengthening Barley and Wheat Research and Training in the Arabian Peninsula (APR).

Yemen joined the Dry Land Resource Management project in ICARDA's Farm Research Management program supported by the Ford Foundation and IDRC, in 1991. A case study on natural resource management was undertaken by AREA and the Faculty of Agriculture at Sanaa University with technical support from ICARDA scientists.

**Current Projects & Activities**  
Since the signing of the Cooperative Agreement between Yemen and ICARDA, and the letter of understanding between AREA and ICARDA in 1995, several projects are now contributing to the agricultural develop-

ment of Yemen. The principle objectives and major activities of these ongoing cooperative projects are summarized below.

- 1) Agricultural Sector Management Support Project
- 2) Nile Valley and Red Sea Regional Networks Project
- 3) Arabian Peninsula Regional Program
- 4) Dry Land Resource Management: Mountain Terrace Project (MTP)
- 5) Sustainable Environmental Management
- 6) Institutional Strengthening

**Prof. Adel Al-Beltaji, Director General of ICARDA, is currently visiting Yemen. He talked to Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor about ICARDA's activities in Yemen.**

**Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?**  
A: We came to see officials and exchange ideas for a future relationship as well as the agricultural development in Yemen. We have a team working for ICARDA and they stay all the time in this country. I met the Minister of Agriculture to discuss the outcome of ICARDA's work in relation to agricultural research as well as the cooperation which we have with the agricultural research and development projects in Yemen.

**Q: Could you tell us more about ICARDA?**  
A: ICARDA has a global mandate to work in the dry areas

worldwide. We are responsible for developing wheat, chickpea and lentil crops, etc. Also we are globally responsible for self-sufficiency in dry areas worldwide and the management of their nature reserves. We have 42 scientists from all over the world, working with two regional programs: North Africa and the Nile and the Red Sea area, which includes Yemen. We have another program called Arabian Peninsula, which also includes Yemen. Although its headquarters are in Dubai, they meet frequently and Yemen is strongly represented.

**Q: How do you evaluate ICARDA achievements in Yemen so far?**  
A: My colleagues and other international officials who work here are satisfied with the achievements. We developed an agricultural strategy to cater for the needs of agriculture in Yemen. A lot of steps need to be taken in order to carry out this strategy. It is important to deliver ICARDA knowledge and expertise to local colleagues. Training goes up to 6 months or even a year on all sorts of agricultural aspects. We have to strengthen the agricultural economy, and to have a higher percentage of contribution for the national economy. We are hoping to achieve this with great support and assistance by the national system to meet the challenge. There is a sense of urgency, which has to come from the government and local authorities. What we are after really is the people involvement in agricultural development.

**Q: What are the main agricultural issues of concern to ICARDA?**  
A: The agricultural sector is very important to the Yemeni national income. We are concerned with the problem of water scarcity and natural resource management. It is crucial to know how to optimize the return of one cubic meter of water. We need to adopt, acquire and use advanced methods. We are keen that the national system will push agricultural development as we are only a precursor international center. We work with the national system, which will have to enhance agricultural development. It means that there is a technology transfer and human capability building.

**Q: Our ancestors seem to have been more in harmony with their environment. How can we retrieve that harmony?**  
A: If we go back to our ancestors'

time, who roamed freely in the land, they respected and lived in harmony with the environment. But nowadays we have over population. How to make people graze their animals and not cause overgrazing and desertification? Our grandfathers used to do this because they knew the capacity of a particular range area, and they did not exceed it. There were rules that if you cut a tree the tribes will punish you, but now everything has changed. There are dry areas everywhere now. We are trying to acquire knowledge which will enable us to properly and sustainably use the water which is God given. It is very important, it will vanish if over exploited by man-made mistakes in the management of natural resources.

## Ecotourism in Yemen: Process & Concept

'Yemen is Rich with a Unique Diversity of Ecotourism Elements that Must be Conserved' is the theme of a special workshop held on 10 and 11 June in Sanaa. The results of several studies on the possibility of establishing a viable ecotourism in Yemen were extensively discussed by the participants. The workshop was attended by the chairman of the General Tourism Authority, Mr. Abdulrahman Mahyoub and a large number of travel agents and tour operators. "There is a marked increase in the number of tourists coming to Yemen for whom we try to provide the best accommodation and means of transport," says Mr. Mahyoub. Several tour operators have expressed deep interest in taking part in tourism projects. "The General Tourism Authority is more than ready to provide all possible assistance to investors in the tourism sector," announced Mr. Mahyoub. Ms. Najat Al-Shami, the director of the 5th Ecotourism Project has emphasized that Yemen has all the necessary tourist attractions to be able to compete on an international level. "If we plan and implement our plans correctly, the tourism industry in Yemen can be improved immensely," explained Ms. Al-Shami.

The National Action Plan for the Environment has several priorities including the establishment of a special directorate for ecotourism within the General Tourism Authority. "Tourism and the environment are very closely linked and mutually interactive," Ms. Al-Shami pointed out, adding, "I call on all relevant organs to cooperate on raising public awareness of the importance of such issues as sanitation." She also asked the private sector to be more reactive with the ecotourism program. "I think that every quaint little village in Yemen should be declared a conserved area." Special questionnaires were distributed to private sector tour operators to ascertain their readiness to take part in the ecotourism program. "The results of the survey should be out by mid-July," announced Ms. Al-Shami. Mr. Hector Ceballos-Lascurain, the Director General of the Program of International Consultancy on Ecotourism (PICE) and special adviser on ecotourism to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), presented his preliminary findings on the possibilities of ecotourism in Yemen. His first mission (15 April - 2 May) covered the governorates of Sanaa, Aden Hodeida, Taiz and Hadhramaut; while, the second mission (3 June - 20 June) took him to Mareb, Mahweet, Hajja and Saada. He told Yemen Times: "Yemen has some very beautiful and attractive cultural, architectural and human elements. The country has the most diverse environment in the Arabian Peninsula. However, there are a few negative aspects." He specified the following remarks:

- 1- Pollution and litter are almost everywhere. Discarded plastic bags are the worst enemy of the environment, especially in Third World countries. More reliance should be made on bio-degradable material.
- 2- The carrying and use of firearms have very adverse effects

on tourism. Also, the presence of army troops at checkpoints and road blocks simply frighten the tourists.

- 3- Some historical and archeological sites on mountain tops are not employed as tourist attractions because they are used as army positions.
- 4- There is a lack of environmental awareness among the general public. School children should be taught to positively deal with the environment. Tourism in Yemen will never progress if not enough care is given to the environment. The philosophy of ecotourism must prevail in this country.
- 5- Staff working in the tourism sector are not very knowledgeable in foreign languages. There must be intensive language-learning programs to teach spoken and written foreign languages.
- 6- Maps and tourist information leaflets and booklets in foreign languages must be made readily available for visitors.
- 7- There must be sufficient laws and legislations to regulate investments in the tourism sector.
- 8- There is a marked lack of conserved areas and administrative plans.

Mr. Hector Ceballos-Lascurain made the following recommendations:

- 1- A comprehensive survey must be conducted on all likely tourist attractions.
- 2- The Ministry of Culture and Tourism should keep an extensive record of all of Yemen's heritage. "We must know what we have."
- 3- The General Tourism Authority must keep coordinating its efforts with the Environment Protection Council.
- 4- Before starting to promote ecotourism in this country, specific areas must be earmarked for conservation.
- 5- Media campaigns must be conducted to raise public awareness of essential environmental issues.

"Some of the areas that should be conserved," indicated Mr. Lascurain, "include the Island of Socotra,



the Dhora Mountain in Hodeida, Bir Ali in Aden, Rass Shamra in Hadhramaut, the Island of Kamaran, Kadafar in Saada, and Shahara."



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# First General Conference of Yemeni NGOs

Sanaa: 16-18 June, 1998

Sponsored by: CIDA, Canada; Government of Denmark; UNDP, Sanaa; Government of Yemen

## PROGRAM:

### TUESDAY JUNE 16TH: 1998:

08:00 - Registration  
09:30 - 10:30 Inauguration Session

Welcome Address by:

- Organizers' Address: Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, President of the Conference
- Representatives of the Sponsors: Dr. Onder Yucer, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Yemen
- Patron of the Conference: Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

### First Working Session:

11:00 - 13:00 Reading & Commenting on the Draft of the NGO Law

Chairperson: Mr. Yahia Al-Habbari, Coordination Council of the Associations Working on the Historic City of Sanaa

Rapporteur: Dr. Hameed Ziyad, Secretary-General, Social Reform Charitable Society

Panelists:

- Mr. Mohammed Al-Batani, Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs: "The Government's View on the New Draft of the Law".
- Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister for Social Affairs: "How the Draft Law Was Evolved: Yemen's Experience".
- Mr. Mohammed Bahjan, Director-General of Legal/NGO Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and Culture: "Comments on the Law and the NGOs Working in the Cultural Sector".
- Mr. Jameel Mukhashaf, Director-General of NGOs, Ministry of Planning & Development: "The Ministry of Planning and Interacting with International NGOs".
- Mr. Taha Al-Hamdani, Director of NGO Department at the Presidential Office: "Difficulties Facing NGOs under the Present Circumstances"
- General Discussion and Formation of a sub-committee to propose feedback to the draft of the law.

16:00 - 18:00 Five Parallel (Simultaneous) Workshops Aimed at Capacity Building of Yemen NGOs:

Hall No. 1: Capacity Building in Accounting and Financial Transparency:

Coordinator: Mr. Fadhle Sabri, People's Welfare Society.

Presentation by: Mr. Mohammed Zohdi Mejanni, Director and Partner, KPMG.

Hall No. 2: Capacity Building in Fund Raising and Applying for Funds:

Coordinator: Dr. Fares Al-Saqqaf, President, Future Studies Center

Presentation by: Ms. Najwa Al-Adhi, Secretary-General, SOFD.

Hall No. 3: Capacity Building in Marketing Products and Inventory Assessment:

Coordinator: Mr. Mohammed Abu Ali, Yemeni Society for Heritage, Culture and Arts

Presentation by: Ms. Amatal-Razzak Jahhaf, Yemeni Center for Women's Handicrafts.

Hall No. 4: Capacity Building in Progress Report Writing:

Coordinator: Ms. Zal-Al-Ham A. Rassam, Social Society for Productive Families

Presentation by: Mr. Faris Sanabani, President, The Civil Society Forum

Hall No. 5: Capacity Building in Mobilizing Volunteers:

Coordinator: Ms. Rashidah Al-Asadi, Yemeni Family Planning Association

Presentation by: Jameela Al-Sharee, Yemeni Family Planning Association

### WEDNESDAY JUNE 17TH: 1998:

08:30 - 10:30 The Changing Role of NGOs: Challenges and Opportunities:

Chairperson: Dr. Wahiba Ghalib Fare', President, Queen Arwa University

Rapporteur: Dr. Oras Sultan Naji, Member of Parliament

Panelists:

- Dr. Omar Sagheer, Chairman, Yemeni Ornithological Society: "The Role of NGOs in Wildlife Protection"
- Mr. Hamood Munassar, Secretary-General, Yemeni Institute for Developing Democracy: "Democratic Practices within NGOs"
- Ms. Amatal-Aleem Al-Susuwah, Chairperson, National Women's Committee: "Empowering Women in NGOs"
- Mr. Hamood Al-Bukhaiti, Vice President, Consumer Protection Society: "Working Hand in Hand with the Government."
- Dr. Abdul-Karim Thabit, Chairman, Qadas Welfare Association: "Sustainability of NGO Projects"

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 13:00 Cooperation Among Yemeni NGOs: Developing a NETWORK:

Chairperson: Dr. Azza Mohammed Abdo Ghanim, Professor of Education at Sanaa University

Rapporteur: Ms. Fatma Hamza, Member of the Executive Board of the Yemeni Women's Federation

Panelists:

- Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Chairman, People's Welfare Society: "Code of Ethics of Inter-NGO Cooperation"
- Dr. Raufa Hassan, Chairperson, Foundation for Planning of Cultural Development Projects: "The Experience of Networking among Yemeni NGOs Working on Women's Issues"
- Dr. Mohammed Al-Adhi, Chairman, Association for Protection of Child Rights: "Coordination Board for NGOs Working on Child Rights"
- Mr. Mohammed Abdo Saeed, Chairman, Aghabirah and Aarooq Association, Taiz: "Integrating Two Associations: The Aghabirah-Aarooq Model"
- Mr. Hussain Ba-Selamah, Secretary-General, Hadhramaut Welfare Society, Aden: "Problems in Coordinating Among Yemeni NGOs"

Formation of a sub-committee to evolve a proposal for a networking system for Yemeni NGOs.

LUNCH HOSTED BY THE SOCIETY OF HAYEL SAEED GROUP AND COMPANY AT TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

16:00 - 18:00 Five Parallel (Simultaneous) Workshops Aimed at Interacting with Donors and International NGOs

Hall No. 1: Canada and the USA:

Coordinator: Mr. Mohammed Abdo Saeed, Chairman, Aghabirah and Aarooq Association

Presentation by: Dr. Norman Cook, Director of NGOs and Special Projects, CIDA, Ottawa, Canada

Mr. Adam Erel, USIS Director, Sanaa.

Hall No. 2: The EU: France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom:

Coordinator: Ms. Asma Al-Basha, Director-General of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Development

Presentation by: Mr. Michel Doucan, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Foreign Ministry and in charge of NGOs, Paris

Mr. Peter Dorst, Deputy Chief of Mission, Netherlands Embassy, Sanaa

Ms. Martino Smits, Program Director, the British Council, Sanaa.

Hall No. 3: Denmark and Japan

Coordinator: Dr. Nizar Ghanim, Chairman, The Cultural Health Center

Presentation by: Mr. Anders Hougaard, Deputy Chief of Mission, Danish Embassy, Riyadh

Mr. Hideaki Yamamoto, Second Secretary, Japanese Embassy, Sanaa

Mr. Hiroshi Sato, Asian Development Institute, Tokyo, Japan

Hall No. 4: The UNDP and World Bank

Coordinator: Dr. Mona A. Al-Midhwahi, The National Association for Mother and Child Health

Presentation by: Mr. Serge Eli and Amal Al-Basha, UNDP, Sanaa.

Abdul-Karim Al-Arhabi, Executive-Manager, Social Fund for Development

### THURSDAY JUNE 18TH: 1998:

08:30 - 11:00 Final Session

Chairperson: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Hadharem Welfare Association

Rapporteur: Ahmed Al-Mash-hoor, Secretary-General, Hadhramaut Welfare Association, Sanaa.

- Report of the subcommittee on feedback to the NGO Law: Reading, Discussing, Amending and Approving the Report

- Report of the subcommittee on proposing networking for Yemeni NGOs: Reading, Discussing, Amending and Approving the Report

- Report of the conference secretariat on the proposed communique of the conference: Reading, Discussing, Amending and Approving the Report

11:00 - 12:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS:



## Aden Radio & TV: Glorious Past & Brilliant Future

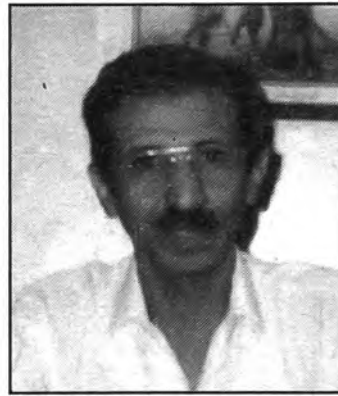
Founded in 1964, the Aden TV or the 2nd Channel is one of the oldest broadcast stations in the Arabian Peninsula, where many people were trained and qualified to work in other Arab broadcasting stations. It witnessed several ups and downs due to the ever changing social and political climate, but has now acquired a very active part in the Yemeni media and the Yemeni General Radio and TV Establishment (YGRTE).

With the recent present of broadcast equipment from the Japanese government, the 2nd Channel is preparing a whole new host of programs and artistic creations.

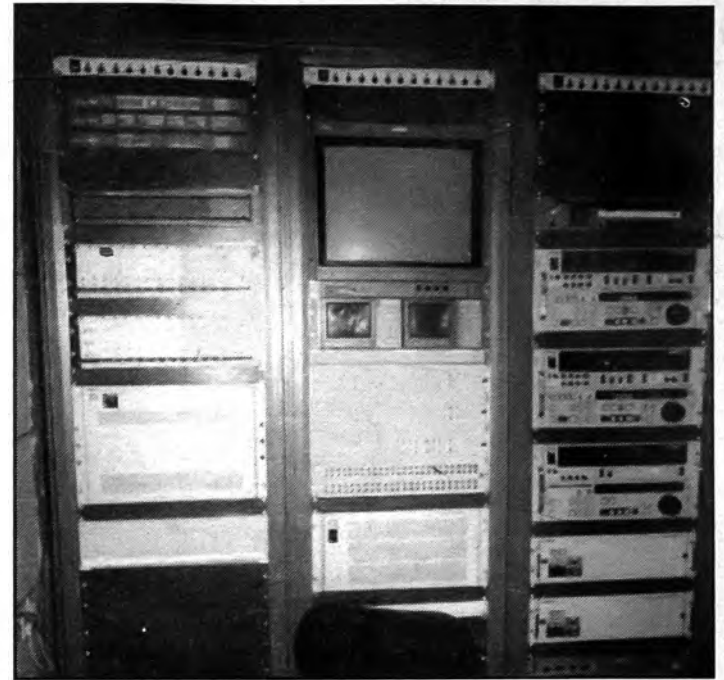
Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Chief of the Yemen Times Aden Bureau,



generously donated YR 8 million worth of equipment that will provide additional facilities in terms of recording, editing and broadcasting as well as a special vehicle for external live broadcasting. The new equipment will also enable us to re-record some of the old and much cherished programs to be compatible with modern digital broadcasting systems.



Yemen Times also met Mr. Jameel Mohammed Ahmed, the head of the Aden Radio Sector in the YGRTE.



Arabic section had on 31 May jointly broadcast the "Open Program." This broadcast was done very professionally.

capabilities. The regular four-month seasonal programming schedules or periods are in themselves part of the future planning.



talked to Mr. Yaslum Matar, the director of the 2nd TV Channel about the future plans of this important institution. He filed the following interview.

Q: What department does the 2nd Channel have?

A: There is the General Programs Directorate, which consists of a number of sub-directorates and smaller departments such as the News, Programs, Engineering, Broadcast, Advertising, Research and Studies, and other administrative sections. All these departments work in close cooperation and coordination with each other.

Q: What new developments have taken place at the 2nd Channel?

A: We have resumed an almost daily schedule of on-air programs. Work is also underway to renovate and modernize the building to house the new equipment provided by the Japanese government, the rest of which are due to be delivered by the end of this year. This will enable the 2nd Channel broadcast to reach almost all parts of Yemen.

Q: Could you tell us more about the Japanese equipment?

A: The government of Japan has

Q: What sort of government support do you receive?

A: The Ministry of Information's top priority is to get the message to the general public and serve hopes and aspirations. The ministry is now studying plans to amplify the 2nd Channel broadcast so that it reaches all parts of the country. We have been allocated the former building of the foreign ministry in Aden, which will enable us to open new departments.

Q: What difficulties do you face in your work?

A: There is a marked lack of serials and soap operas to show. Also, we often suffer from lack of the necessary spare parts in the case of a sudden break down.

Q: Any last comment?

A: The 2nd Channel has a lot of old archival material that is threatened with disintegration if they are not properly restored.

Q: When was the Aden radio station first established?

A: Aden radio started its broadcast for the first time on 8 August, 1954. It played a great role in many political and cultural events in this part of Yemen, and has the credit of preserving a big part of Yemen's singing and musical heritage.

Q: What are the capabilities of the Aden radio station?

A: Aden radio broadcasts on a 750-kW medium wave, covering the whole of Yemen and other parts of the Arabian Peninsula for 15 hours a day, except on Fridays when the broadcast period is extended to 18 hours.

Q: There has been a joint broadcast with the BBC. Could you tell us about that?

A: The Aden radio and the BBC

Q: What impression did the visiting BBC team come out with?

A: Our BBC colleagues praised the success of this experiment and the punctuality and professionalism of Aden staff, despite the short period of prior preparations.

Q: Has the Aden Radio received technical assistance from the Japanese government?

A: Any assistance comes to the YGRTE as a whole, of which the Aden Radio is a part, and is allocated according to the needs of individual departments.

Q: What are your future plans to develop the Aden Radio?

A: Any realistic plans must rely on the available resources and

In coordination with the Ministry of Information, we formulate plans to develop the programs and strengthen the broadcast signal. A comprehensive one-year program is due to start in the near future to train our staff on various aspects of media work, whether creative or administrative.

Q: What are the major difficulties you face in your work?

A: The main hindrance is the reliance on old equipment, especially those used for recording. The problem is compounded by the lack of spare parts, leading occasionally to stopping the broadcast altogether. Lack of financial resources is also affecting not only the day-to-day running of the station, but also the creativity process itself.

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## UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



UNDP

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**This position is open to Yemeni Nationals Only**

### Personnel Assistant:

#### Duties and Responsibilities

Undertake preparation for the recruitment of national professional project personnel and administrative support staff; perform all the duties relevant to the recruitment in accordance with Personnel Manual; brief and counsel project staff (locals) on personnel issues providing interpretation of personnel regulations, rules and procedures on extension, separation, entitlement to various allowances, disciplinary actions etc.; establishment of renunciation for national professional project personnel; issuance of contracts and SSA's for project staff including NEX projects and extension of contracts; maintain personnel records and files.

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- 1- Completion of secondary education supplemented by courses related to general administration; Ability to operate computer; very good knowledge of English and Arabic.
- 2- Five years experience including progressively responsible work in general administration with emphasis in personnel.

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

Applications should be received **no later than 21, June 1998.**

**Applicants who applied for this post before are not to apply again.**

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgment will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post.



# Marriage in Abyan: Exquisite Rituals

## 1-Betrothal stage

Before making the engagement public, the bridegroom's family sends a person called 'khatib' or matchmaker, to make the preparations for the betrothal with the bride's family. When the bridegroom is accepted, a day for

betrothal is specified. The matchmaker tells the bridegroom about the day agreed on. After that, the bridegroom goes with the company of his father and a socially esteemed person who can be sometimes the tribe's Sheikh to be a witness. They bring with them some coffee in a sack. After the two families have a tea or coffee session, the bridegroom's father throws that coffee on the ground. If it is collected by the bride's father, it is a sign of accepting the bridegroom. Then, the topic of marriage is kicked off by the family of the bridegroom. They ask the other side about their conditions, some of which are as follows:

\* The bride's father asks for 'Al-dafea', money estimated at YR 120,000 including all the expenses of betrothal, marriage and clothes for the bride and her relatives. Sometimes her father asks for YR50,000 excluding the gold required and other expenses.

\* Specifying the duration of the

spousal which is usually one year. They also agree on the expenses of this period of time which are to be paid monthly. It is called 'sahantaha'.

\* They also agree on 'Haq Al-Om,' around YR26,000 paid to the mother of the bride.

\* The father of the suitor asks the other side to bring 'Radiha', a female servant to serve their daughter during the marriage ceremony.

When they agree on these conditions, the fiancé's father puts YR 50,000 on the coffee sack.

The next day a written document of these conditions is signed by the two families. Then the fiancée's father invites the bride and his father to a very delicious meal to show respect and hospitality. The dinner consists of broth, meat and 'Reha'e' or 'Muklum' which is mashed corn. Before the spousal is a week old, the suitor and his family are invited to a similar meal at dinner.

Before the day of betrothal, the suitor presents his fiancée 'A-shal', a suitcase full of different sorts of clothes, make-up, sandals, shampoo, and toothpaste. He also gives some clothes to her mother, sisters, and aunts. He brings with him four goats, a bag of flour, sugar, spices, wood and gas for cooking lunch. In the afternoon the hairdresser starts beautifying the bride. 'Al-Shahetha', a group of people come to serve the family. Then, the bride and the bridegroom are brought among the people where the bride is given the betrothal ring and other

gold. The two families members dance till dawn. Of course, the suitor is to pay for all these expenses. Here the betrothal stage comes to an end.

## 2- Contraction of Marriage Stage

It takes place a week before marriage

1-The first day of marriage called 'Sharh', is the announcement of marriage. A 'shahetha' beats the drum while people dance. Tea or coffee is also served.

2-The second day is known as Al-Henna day wherein the bride is ornamented with henna. A 'shaheth' is brought with his drum. He brings with him a 'masrafa', a circular vessel made of straw and puts a grain of corn on it. He starts drumming and people dance throwing money on the 'masrafa'. A 'Daloo', bucket, is put beside the bridegroom for 'Al-Rafada', money paid to the bridegroom by his friends and relatives as a debt. This colorful ceremony continues till daybreak. The bridegroom is to host his guests and make them a hearty meal.

The henna ceremony of the bride is held the next day. It is also called "Zakrah" where the bride wears her night gown covered with the 'fotah' or loin cloth of her father and sits at the corner of the room. A 'shahetha' starts drumming and a 'masrafa' with a grain on it is put beside her. The main difference between the henna ceremony of the bride and the bridegroom is that the money

paid to the bride is not put in the 'daloo' but in her 'fotah'. It is called 'Rafadaha Haq Al-Henna'. The fiancée's is to pay the expenses of this ceremony including the hosting of guests.

## 3- Third day: 'Youm Al-Ghusl', washing day

The bride has to have a shower and dress himself in new clothes. A calf is slaughtered and a delicious meal is served consisting of rice, broth, reha'e and porridge. After lunch, the bridegroom stands at the front of his house with his brothers. A shahath starts beating his drum. People start giving "A-rafadah" with their names mentioned among the public. This rafadah ceremony lasts for some hours. It should be mentioned that the expenditures of the wedding ceremony is to be paid by the bridegroom. He has also to give clothes to the bride and her mother and her sisters just like during betrothal.

The washing of the bride is made the next day following that of the bridegroom. She sits at the corner of her room covered with the 'fotah' of her father while a 'monakisha', a traditional make-up lady, ornaments her hands and feet.

Now lunch is served to the guests while the bride and her friends have theirs later on. Then she goes to the bathroom to have a shower and after that dresses herself in the washed green clothes. The 'Al-Radiha' and hairdresser accompany her to the bathroom to get her dressed while people go to their houses to change their clothes and come back again.

The bride sits with a 'shahetha' and people start dancing, giving some money and presents to the bride. The washing ceremony continues for some hours.

## 4- Fourth day: wedding day

The bride has to bring with her many things like kitchen utensils, four mattresses, four sheets, a tape recorder, a 'masrafa' for keeping bread in, crockery, sweets, food stuff, and two goats. All these things are sent to the bridegroom with the bride's suitcase. She also brings with her clothes for the bridegroom's mother, sisters, and aunts.

On the wedding night, the bride's mother goes to the bridegroom's house and burns incense in her daughter's room. The bride comes bringing with her a 'radiha' who stays for two days. Then comes 'Al-Dukhla', or the wedding night.

## 5- Fifth day: Al-Subhya

After the wedding night, the bridegroom goes before noon to his mother-in-law and gives her Haq Al-Om. In the afternoon the hairdresser styles the bride's hair and dresses her in a lavishly beautiful dress. She puts on 'shukur, kathi, mashmoom' - all are diverse roses having beautiful scents. The shahetha drums while cakes and beverages are served to the guests.

## 6- Sixth day: Al-Thalith

During this day the bride puts on beautiful clothes. The guests eat cake, have tea and listen to music.

## 7- Seventh day: Al-Sab'e

It marks the tenth day after the spousal. At this day the bride's mother and her relatives are invited to lunch at the bridegroom's. The mother brings sweets, coffee, corns, peanuts, almonds, and raisins for her daughter.

At this point the marriage rituals come to an end. Of course, these conventions differ from one village to another.

By Sana Qannan



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## عمارة الشعبي جاهزة للتأجير

إذا رغبت أن تكون من طلائع المستثمرين في العاصمة الاقتصادية والتجارية لليمن، وفي أول منطقة حرة لليمن الموحد وفي قلب مدينة عدن الصغرى في البريقة، وأردت أن يكون لك مكتب عصري أو مقر متكامل لشركتك فإننا نعرض عليك موقعاً ممتازاً جداً يطل على البحر وعلى أهم شوارع عدن الصغرى (البريقة) - شارع الدوح.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Is this a way to treat a guest?

The hospitality of Yemeni officials at the Sanaa Airport is providing plenty of reason to escape, sending foreigners screaming for their suitcases and heading for the transit lounge.

After paying the \$50 visa fee, I started my trip to Yemen on February 7th from the West Coast of the US with 4-12 hour lay-overs here and there. I arrived in Cairo on the 9th of February. On the 13th, my travel companion and I boarded Egypt Air at 3:00 A.M. To my estimation, the plane was 70% occupied, 30% of them being foreign guests. Most of these visitors did not start their journeys in Cairo and had been traveling for days. We arrived at our final destination tired and disoriented at 6:45 A.M. At immigration there are 3 lines, 2 for Yemeni nationals and 1 for foreigners.

Each foreigner was greeted by a crude ill-mannered 2-star military official. After 1 1/2 hours, my friend stepped up to the window and handed him her passport. He barked at her, "Do you want to go back on the same plane?" "Is this a joke?" she answered. When I stepped up to the window, he ordered me to the back of the line. Finally, I was allowed to approach his window and he barks at me, "What do you want?" This is how he treated all the foreign guests. We finally arrived at our hotel at 10:00 A.M.

My question is, why give us a visa if they don't want us to enter the country? In our 12 years of traveling in the Middle East, we have never been treated this way on entering a country. Where is the Yemeni hospitality? Or was this special treatment due to it being Friday the 13th?

*Christina Henning  
U.S. national*

## My Fear for Our Future

If Yemen continues in the direction it is going, it will lose many excellent people. Where is our future that we dream about? Is it going to be in

Yemen or abroad? I am speaking for myself, a Yemeni student, and my generation.

Many students finish high school and the first question is, which college are we going to? If the family is able to pay for us to leave, we will do so. But if it isn't, then we have no choice except to enter the university here. What is wrong with colleges and universities in Yemen? There are major problems; but there is no reason not to put an effort into finding solutions.

If we leave Yemen and go to study abroad, then where are we going to work after we graduate? Is it abroad or do we have to return to our country? If we don't fit in anywhere, then we are lost!

Many people graduate from university here and when they look for a job, they don't find one, yet Yemen needs a lot of workers. It has an open way for graduates. In 1997, 2000 highly qualified graduates left Yemen because they couldn't find jobs! Isn't that disappointing? So we have to study and work abroad. Does Yemen have so many engineers, doctors, and teachers, that it doesn't need us any more?

*By Huda Abdullah Al-Shaba*

## What Is Real Democracy?

Owing to the hard economic conditions faced by the people, every terminology should be altered or improved. Let's take democracy as an example. Democracy is not only restricted to mean one's freedom to pronounce or utter whatever he likes. I believe it is more capacious and far beyond this meaning. It means securing the simplest rights of the people. That is, on account of the current crucial conditions, people don't primarily need to express what is in their minds openly, but they want to eat, drink, breathe and stroll in various beautiful gardens. Naturally, when people are hungry and bored, then, they can't think or express their views or even read about democracy. Therefore, we ask our government to provide us with such simple indispensable regular services like water, electricity, good education and health care for life can never go without them.

Our government always claims that our economy can't afford to supply all these facilities and requirements. But I am sure the key and solutions are not doubtlessly over our heads if we really intend to improve our living conditions. Yemen is actually well-off in its natural resource. But these riches should be exploited well. In this way, they can help Yemen to a great extent.

But the question arising here is: where does the income of these fortunes exhaust? Through the answer of this question another solution is put forth. In other words, uprightness can help a lot in solving our problems. Corruption should be strongly battled.

Another key is tourism. It can help very much in increasing the national income. Kidnappers and other disturbing people trying to harm security should be punished.

It is also worth mentioning that putting up good institutions to prepare qualified people can surely share in developing the economy instead of forfeiting money to import foreign laborers. Businessmen should be encouraged to invest their money in their country. In fact the ways out are limitless. It only needs cooperation and determination. And in this way, our stomachs will be full and thus we can claim that Yemen is a democracy. Isn't it so?

*By/ Haija Yahya Kanbar, Taiz*

## The Despondence of Yemeni Youths

I'm full of admiration for Yemen Times, especially the arts page and 'Our Viewpoint' articles by the publisher, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. I agree that Yemeni women need help (regarding How to help Yemeni women, Jan. 19 issue). Another major problem is the despondency of youths in Yemen. There are several difficulties that youths face in our country. I will enumerate some of them.

### 1. Unemployment

According to the statistics for the academic year 1997-98, more than 32,000 new students were

admitted to Yemeni universities. This amazing level of enrollment comes at a time when university graduates are unable to find employment. Most Yemeni youths complain about the unemployment rate, especially university graduates.

### 2. Marriage

Without any doubt, the conditions of the economy make it very difficult for Yemeni youths to afford the cost of marriage. They are very despondent about it.

### 3. Qat

Qat is one of the main woes of the Yemeni people, especially the youths. It is a contemptible escape from existing conditions and the beginning to deviation and despondency. The important question is -- How to help Yemeni youths?

*Adel Ahmed Al-Hadad  
Ibb*



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Extreme Close Up 1300 Globetrotter 2100 Mysteries and Scandals 2330 Late Show with David Letterman</p> <p>16 June 1998 1800 The Price is Right 2030 Judge Judy 2230 Uncut</p> <p>17 June 1998 1200 Alive 1430 E! Coming Attractions 1730 E! Model 1500 The Price is Right 2130 America's Dumbest Criminals</p> <p>18 June 1998 1800 The Price is Right 2100 Genesis Awards 2330 Love Leading Ladies</p> <p>19 June 1998 1230 Sunshine Cuisine 2000 Pictionary 2130 True Hollywood Stories 2330 Love Leading Ladies</p> <p>20 June 1998 1400 E! In Focus 1600 Travel America 2000 Pictionary 2300 Fashion Emergency</p> <p>21 June 1998 1400 E! News Daily</p>	<p>1700 E! 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Behind The Scenes 1700 Stand And Deliver - 2L 2030 Movies, Games &amp; Videos at 17:30 GMT 2300 Rapa Nui - 3V</p> <p>17 June 1998 1500 Akira Kurosawa's Dreams - 2 1900 The Adventures Of Smoke Bellew-Ep.3 - 2V 2100 Deepstar Six - 3VL</p> <p>18 June 1998 1900 Airborne - 2L 2030 E! Coming Attractions at 17:30 GMT 2100 Running Mates - 2SL 2300 A Man Of No Importance - 3S</p> <p>19 June 1998 1430 E! Coming Attractions 1500 Afterburn - 2L 1900 My Blue Heaven - 2</p> <p>20 June 1998 1500 Northern Lights - 1 2100 Framed - 2S 2300 Cobb - 3SVL - (Premiere)</p> <p>21 June 1998 1500 Nobody's Fool - 2L 1700 The Curse Of The Dragon - 2V 1830 E! Behind The Scenes at 15:30 GMT 1900 Wrestling Ernest Hemingway - 2L</p>
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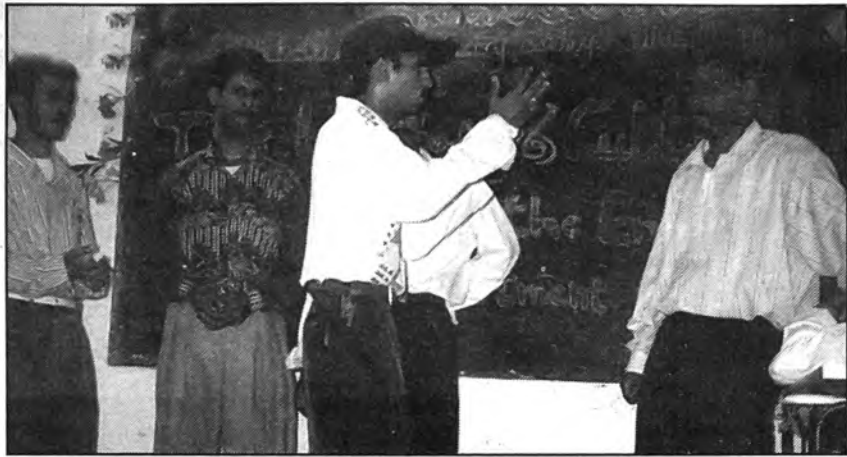
## Cesar & Macbeth in Taiz

The 3rd of June in Taiz was warm and joyful. It was the day of the Annual Literary & Cultural Activities organized by the students of the English Department at Taiz University.

This colorful function is a part of the extra-curricular activities to polish up the students' inventory skills and enable them to show their merits. It comprised various types of activities such as drama acting, poetry recitation, debate and essay writing competitions.

In acting, the participants performed some acts from Macbeth and Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare. The audience was very excited about, and impressed with the performance of the participants, particularly of Gameel Al-Muhyia acting the role of the porter in Macbeth, and Antony in Julius Caesar, and Gebriil Sadeq acting the role of Brutus.

After that a heated and stormy debate was conducted. The



motion of the house for debate was "The right place for a woman is in her home." The most interesting detail in this is that we had male and female participants in both debating groups like Nada Qanbar who kicked off the event by arguing in favor of the motion of the house. Many other students skillfully showed their merits like Gebriil Sadeq, Samara Nawfal, Nawal Al-Hayki, Tawfeek Al-Sharaaby, Montaha Mohammed, Ahmed Ali Sanhan, Fahd Al-Khulani and others. Then, the audience was trans-

ported into the world of wisdom and aesthetic joy; the world of poetry, where some students recited poems on the theme of war by various English poets. In his opening speech, Dr. Durayni, the head of the English Department expressed his great happiness for holding such activities to "refresh the students' memories and explore their dormant faculties for they are the power-house of energy and creativity."

Dr. Pramoud Kumar, the organizer and motivating power who initiated such activities in the English Department four years ago, was very happy to see his work yielding these fruits. "Holding such activities has become a tradition", he said, adding, "I am impressed not only with the students' performance, but also with their courage."

This colorful ceremony concluded with the meritorious students being honored, where Gebriil Sadeq got the lion's share of the prizes.

By **Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi**  
Yemen Times



## Al-Baradouni: Vision in Perception

A large audience gathered at Al-Afif Foundation on the evening of 9 June to listen to poetry recitation by one of Yemen's and the Arab World's most esteemed poets - the great Abdullah Al-Baradouni.

The recited poems included such beauties as The Wooden Song, A Sanaani in the Ummayid Hotel, Except Me and My Country, and A Drunk and a Bearded Policeman.

Born almost 71 years ago in the village of Zaraja, Al-Hadaa, Abdullah Al-Baradouni became blind at the age of 6 following a two-year struggle with smallpox without proper health care.

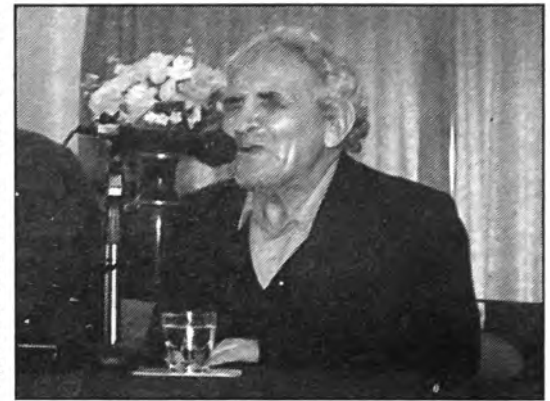
He started going to the village's primary school at the age of 7, going on to the scholastic school

in Dhamar. He started composing poetry at the age of 13. With perseverance and sheer will power, Al-Baradouni was able to defeat his handicap by studying at the Science House to graduate as a teacher of Arabic literature.

Known as a revolutionary poet, Al-Baradouni is able to ingeniously blend the traditional with the modern Arab poetry and

create a new genre unique to his personality and environment.

**Mohammed Bin Sallam,**  
Yemen Times



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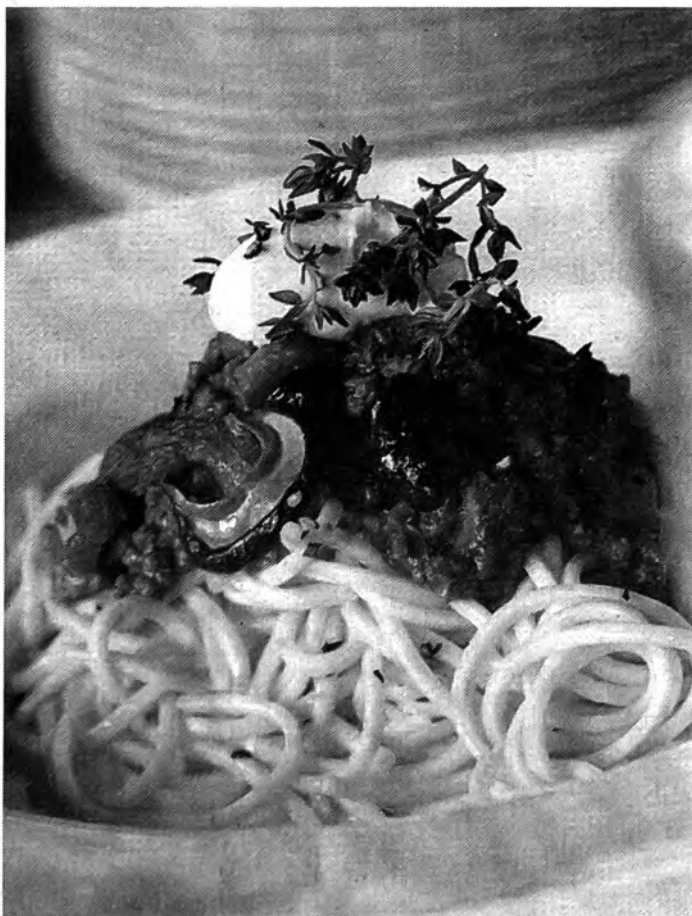
## Mango Spaghetti with Egg Sauce

### Ingredients:

2 cups spaghetti (boiled)  
2 ripe mangoes  
4 table spoon (tbsp) sour cream  
1 tbsp honey  
4 tbsp sugar  
2 eggs  
4 tbsp fresh cream  
1 tea spoon essence  
2 tbsp sugar powder  
A few red cherries  
A little quantity of milk

### Method

- 1- Mix mango pulp, egg yolk, honey and sugar in a bowl and stir till sugar dissolves.
- 2- Add sour cream and half tea spoon full essence. Churn to mix cream with mango mixture. Keep aside.
- 3- For egg sauce:- churn cream, sugar and milk in mixture. Add egg white and remaining essence and whisk the mixture till smooth.
- 4- Put boiled spaghetti in a serving bowl. Pour mango sauce and roll well. Pour egg sauce over it.
- 5- Decorate with cherries and place the dish in the refrigerator. Serve chilled.



Mrs. S. Sharma



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4.00pm-8.30pm

(In Aden, the Festival will be on at all showrooms - but there will be no raffle draw.)  
All Sony Showrooms in Sana'a will be closed during the festival.





**AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 9-6-98.**  
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

#### Main Headlines:

1- Saudi Arabia refuses to withdraw its troops from the Yemeni island of Du Hirab, instead, they asked Yemen to withdraw from Al-Asheq Island opposite a land border point.

2- Three days of army bombing of villages in Dhali' led to 7 civilians dead and 20 houses destroyed. A massive crackdown followed.

Nasserite MP: "The government's program paves the way for a new 'dose' of economic reform, leading to a more encompassing poverty."

3- Following last week's bomb explosions in Jaar, Abyan, security forces arrested a large number of people.

4- Acute water shortages and power cuts are experienced by people in Mukallah.

#### Article Summary: Sheikh Manufacturing By Jamal Amer

The new government has recently decided to continue paying tribal sheikhs their allowances; while, more than 100,000 citizens who live below the poverty line were dropped from the social security registers for 'lack of funds allocated by the central budget.'

The government's decision will encourage the sheikh manufacturing industry. To become an "esteemed" sheikh, all you need is number of paid-for-signatures testifying that you are a sheikh and a son of a sheikh. Then you can obtain a sheikh's ID and join the Tribal Affairs Department at the Council of Ministers.

To strengthen your sheikhdom and consolidate your position among your kinsmen, you can abduct a for-igner or two and some show resistance to the government.



**AL-SAHWA: Sanaa weekly, 11-6-98.**  
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah))

#### Main Headlines:

1- Islah MPs warn against rise in prices and condemn corruption and security lapses.

2- Meeting Speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Al-Ahmer, a delegation of religious and tribal leaders condemn the rise in human rights violations, as uncovered by the trial of the men accused of perpetrating the last year's Aden bomb explosions.

3- Following 4 days in detention due to 'holding an unauthorized party,' the head of the Unified Students Union in Dhamar was released in response to widespread students protestations.

4- World Bank reports warns against a marked decrease in foreign investments in Yemen, reaching almost nil towards the end of 1997. Reason cited include lack of security and bad infrastructure.

5- The Mayor of Sanaa, Brig. Al-Miswari accuses the government of not allocating enough funds for sanitation.

6- Hunt Oil Co. workers postpone their intended strike for 15 days due to the company's answering some of their demands - free medical care and national phone calls.

#### Article Summary: Doulos: New Form of Proselytizing

Leaving Djibouti, the floating book fair on board the ship Doulos has returned to Aden. It was received with much media and official fanfare. In addition to the English book sections and the small Arabic one, there is a special section for the Bible. In contrast to other sections of the book fair, it was noticed that Bible section was staffed and overseen by young pretty girls, a factor attracting huge numbers of male visitors to this part of the fair.

Allowing some women to go the ship's lower decks, staff members took large number of copies of the Bible translated into Arabic to distribute to these women.

One of ship's staff commented that Yemenis have the right to convert to Christianity, and the organization's real purpose is to ascertain the suitability of various countries for the spread of Christianity.

**AL-TAREEQ: Aden weekly, 9-6-98.**  
(Independent)

#### Main Headlines:

1- 35th Brigade deploys its troops in Dhali', Lahaj, following 3 days of armed clashes between army forces and the citizens.

2- Following a silent demonstration marking the passing of 40 days since the death of two men in the Mukallah demonstration (27 April), authorities in Hadhramaut start criminal investigation with opposition leaders for organizing an unauthorized demonstration.

3- Two bomb explosions took place in Al-Shoab, Lahaj. No group claimed responsibility.

4- Tribal elders of Bani Dhibyan (previously associated with the kidnapping of foreigners) promise to oppose the abduction of foreign visitors.

5- Opposition figures warn against the deteriorating security situation in the southern governorates.



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

#### Article Summary: Oil Pollution

For the last 3 years, environmental activists have been sounding the alarm bells regarding the re-pumping of oil-contaminated water into the ground at the Maseela oil fields, which are run by Canadian Occidental Petroleum. Millions of cubic meters of water are separated from the crude oil pumped out of the ground, and are then put back.

It was found that this contaminated water pollutes large amounts of fresh underground water, causing great environmental damage. The company claims that rock and mud formations separate the two, but refuses to allow any official or non-official organs to conduct chemical tests on the aquifer water there.



**AL-UMMA: Sanaa weekly, 11-6-98.**  
(Al-Haq Party)

#### Main Headlines:

1- Lapses of security and rising tension are experienced by citizens in a number of governorates.

2- Armed tribal clashes took place in Hojarya, Taiz over a disputed water well.

3- After 20 years in operation, Seyoun radio station is threatened with closure under the excuse of returning the building in which it is housed to its previous owners, Al-Kaff family.

4- Sudanese ship, loaded with 300 tons of steel without proper documentation, crashed against rocks in Mukallah port. Sources say the steel is intended for Socotra Island.

#### Article Summary: Court Goes on Strike

Staff of the General Prosecutor's Office at the East Sanaa court are continuing their strike, which started a month ago. They are protesting against the physical assault by an influential person on the Deputy Prosecutor.

Also in the same court, a security officer along with his soldiers assaulted an executive judge to prevent him from carrying out an eviction order. The officer snatched the judge's janbia and the case file. The Sanaa security chief has ordered a suspension of the officer's salary as a punitive measure.



**AL-JAMAHEER: Sanaa weekly, 11-6-98.**  
(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)

#### Main Headlines:

1- Saudi Forces occupying the Yemeni island of Dhu Hirab lowers down Saudi flag and raised a white one, and agrees to negotiate with the Yemeni authority's envoy. Saudi Arabia declares its willingness to withdraw provided enough protection is given to Saudi fishermen.

2- Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Ba'ath Party Secretary-General, Dr. Abdulwahab Mahmoud meets Syrian Chargé d' affairs and Chinese ambassador to discuss bilateral relations.

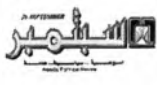
3- Aided by his relatives, the administrative manager at the General Establishment for External Trade and Cereals beats up an employee at the establishment's courtyard.

4- Security chief in Damat, Ibb, usurps state-owned plots of land and real estate. A 'Mafia' gang has taken over about 80% of the state-owned lands in the area through illegal and fraudulent sales.

#### Article Summary: Money Disappears

The Public Funds Prosecutor Office in Sanaa is currently investigating the withdrawal of about YR 2 million from a number of local banks by way of loans without interests or collateral. The accused are senior officials and businessmen.

Most of the loans were taken out under the pretense of investment and participating in the construction of the country! The prosecutor's office described this case as the largest and most complicated of its kind in Yemen.



**26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 11-6-98.**  
(Yemeni Armed Forces)

#### Main Headlines:

1- The President stresses Yemen keenness on solving the Ethiopian-Eritrean dispute peacefully.

2- In a letter to the President, citizens in Dhali', Lahaj, declare their adherence to the 'fixed national principles,' and promise not to repeat the events of the last few days.

3- Minister of Finance announces new measures to regulate the use of government-owned vehicles. A maximum of 2 cars will be allocated for a minister or a governor and one car for a deputy minister.

4- Saudi Minister of Interior: "Yemeni-Saudi ties

are very strong. A real and honest mutual desire will certainly solve the border issue."

5- Strict measures are taken to protect Yemen's fishing wealth from over-fishing. Ships violating the new regulations will be fined up to \$1 million.

6- A number of European and Canadian oil companies submit applications to invest in Yemen.

#### Article Summary: Accumulation of Knowledge & Dust

By Iskandar Al-Asbahi

It is the fashion now to hold symposiums, seminars or conferences; discuss a specific issue; come out with a number of recommendations and shelve them away, collecting dust. After the passage of enough time to make people forget, the same seminar or conference is repeated. Such activities do not indicate a real intellectual movement so much as presenting a number of 'conference professionals.'

Holding such events has become a goal in itself, instead of taking practical steps to tackle the issues discussed at a particular seminar, say. Decision makers usually do not rely on the recommendations of such conferences, but use their personal intuition instead.



**AL-THAWRI, Sanaa weekly, 11-6-98.**  
(Yemeni Socialist Party - YSP)

#### Main Headlines:

1- A special fact-finding com-

mittee formed by the President has started its investigations of the recent clashes between the army and the citizens in Dhali', Lahaj.

2- Al-Thawri weekly is still being investigated by the Press and Publications Prosecutor office for articles critical of the government.

3- The Urgent Affairs Court annuls a Ministry of Information decision to withhold the last issue of Al-Shoura weekly and withdraw its license.

4- Three Hadhramaut MPs in a parliamentary committee, sent to investigate the violent break up of the Mukallah demonstration on 27 April, write a separate report to the one adopted by the committee's other members.



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**Yemen Wins Silver & Bronze Chess Medals in Lebanon**

The Yemeni chess team managed a new accomplishment when its international players Hatem Al-Hadharani and Khaled Al-Subeihi respectively won the silver medal and second place and the bronze medal and third place in the championship organized by the Lebanese Chess Association for international Arab chess champions.

The Yemeni Chess Association has participated in this championship with 5 international players: Hatem Al-Hadharani, Hamid Al-Qadhi, Khalil Al-Subeihi, Yahya Saleh Farj, Zindan Al-Zindani.

On the other hand, the national chess team traveled to Baghdad last Sunday to participate in the third Arab world championship which is due to be held on June 17-26.

The team is headed by Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Odhri, the President of the Yemeni Chess Association, who will also attend the Executive Bureau meetings of the Arab Associations' Board of Directors. Four players will represent Yemen in this championship: Hatem Al-Hadharani

Homaid Al-Qadhi  
Khalil Al-Subeihi  
Zindan Al-Zindani.

**Sports Associations Present Concerns To Minister**



Various sports associations met last Thursday at the Ministry of Youth and Sports to discuss the sportsmen's needs and problems. During the meeting Mr. Khaled Saleh, the Director General of the Sports Activity Directorate at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, explained the plans and programs prepared to tackle the problems facing the sports associations. Mr. Abdulhamid Al-Saeedi, the Club and Association Director General, called upon all sports associations to keep in touch with this department to express their views on

developing the associations. The Secretary General of the Yemeni Olympic Committee (YOC), Mr. Hussein Al-Awadhi stressed that the YOC has mobilized its resources to serve the interests of the sports associations. Also, the YOC has established the Olympic Center which hosts many activities.

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh considered this meeting as an opportunity to evaluate the sports associations activities and get to know the impediments facing them. The Minister announced that a sports complex will be established in 1999, and he also hoped that the sports seasons would be held on time.

All sports associations attended the meeting except the Parachute Jump Association.

**Yemen Olympic Committee**

Upon a request by the General Secretary of the Yemen Olympic Committee submitted to the Minister of Youth and Sports, it has been decided to hold an

extended meeting on June 18th, 1998 at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Participants will discuss the following issues:



\* The General Secretary of the Olympic Committee report on the Committee's activities during the last period.

\* The Junior and Youth Care Fund report.

\* Yemen's participation in the next Asian games.

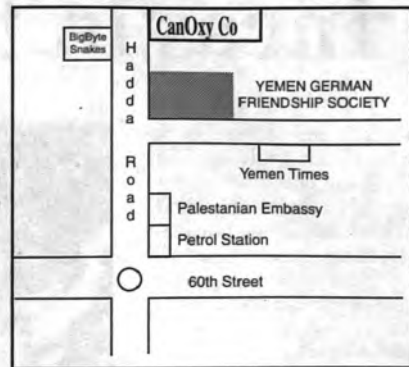
\* Proposal for establishing assistant committees.

\* Honoring senior sportsmen, especially those who made great contributions to sports during the 1970s and the 1980s.

**اعلان**

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**Announcement**

The Yemen-German Friendship Society announces the transferring of its offices to Flat No. 6, Al-Nozaili Building (above the Yemeni Sport Center), Abu Al-Hassan Al-Hamadani Road (Hadda Road), Sanaa. Tel 263 633

**UNIVERSAL BECOMES DIVERSEYLEVER AGENT**

DIVERSEYLEVER, the Industrial Detergent and Hygiene specialists have appointed Universal Hotels Ltd. of Sana'a as their Yemen distributor.

DiverseyLever is a part of the global consumer giant Unilever and operates in over 60 countries worldwide.

At the recent Yemen launch held in Sana'a, delegates from the Hotel, Catering, Food and Beverage industries came

together to listen to capability presentations given by Mr. Nizar Karmali, Middle East Distributor Development Manager, who demonstrated DiverseyLever's commitment to hygiene in food preparation areas.

Tim Robins, Managing Director for Middle East was also in attendance reinforcing the importance of high levels of hygiene in the Hotel & Catering sector. "Tourism relies heavily on good hygiene practices for success, if guests are confident that their health is not at risk though poor hygiene standards then they will keep coming back."

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## Incas in the Land of Sheba

What does Yemen know about Latin America? Little in the way of culture and more about the guerrilla wars occurring there. All it takes is one musical group from the region to come here and people will begin to put their knowledge into correct perspective and learn more about the culture there.

The Somos Peru group numbering 7, invited by the International Women's Association, has presented a folkloric dance show at the Yemen Cultural Center. It is the first folkloric group coming from Latin America. There are no diplomatic relations between Yemen and any Latin American country except Cuba, but music and culture go a long way in helping establish bridges between countries.

The Somos Peru group danced to many numbers such as 'Huay



Lars' and the 'Marinera Nortena'. Two musicians played many numbers on the Peruvian flute, guitar, drums.

The mouth piece of their flute or 'quena' is made without bamboo while the resonance chamber of their guitar or 'charango' is made from the body of the armadillo. A percussion instrument, the 'bombo'

bound with the hide of deer, gave out a piercing tune. The six dancers including a six year old girl danced to tunes such as 'Puno' or the potato harvest.

The characteristic costumes of the Peruvian performers with their brightly colored vests and hats added warmth to the musical atmosphere. Generally speaking the dance and song are influenced by Spanish music and the Incan civilization. The dances and songs were greatly admired by the international community in Sanaa. But the real treat was to the Yemeni audience which came across this type of performance for the first time.

By: Martin Dansky,  
 Yemen Times



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