

YEMEN TIMES

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فقيه الديمقراطية والصحافة د. عبدالعزيز ياسين السقاف ١٩٥١-١٩٩٩

Prof. Abdulaziz Yassin Al-Saqqaf, 1951-1999

OUR VIEWPOINT

These are the LAST WORDS written by the deceased. The article is about water, which is yet another topic that reflects his aim of helping the people of Yemen. Until the last moment of his life, he wrote for the people and only for the people. May God have mercy on his soul...

WATER ... Please Some WATER!

At best, rainfall in Yemen is erratic. The population lives in a precarious state given the acute shortage in the water supply, even though actual per capita consumption - 120 liters, averages about 12% of the average per capita consumption at the world level.

This year, the problem is further complicated by lack of rainfall. "The rains have not come!" The impact of this fact is enormous. Consider the following:

1. Agricultural Output

The impact on agricultural output is direct and immediate. This year's harvest will be a record low, even when compared to some bad years in the past.

2. Income of the Poor:

The farmers of this country are among the poor of our society. Therefore, the fall in agricultural output will affect a low-income group negatively.

3. Balance of Trade:

As a result of the fall in agricultural output, the expected level of import of food and other agricultural products will rise. Our agricultural exports will also fall.

4. Price Level:

Given tight supplies, prices will rise. They will initially rise for food and agricultural products, but will later extend to most sectors, thus leading to a visible increase in the cost of living. But the impact of scarce rains will also impact the replenishment of underground water reservoirs, thus affected the drinking water network. Most Yemeni cities are already unable to find water for their residents. Taiz is a famous case. Sanaa is also in trouble. Sa'adah has similar problems. Most urban centers, growing madly at unprecedented rates - because of a rural-to-urban migration and very high population growth rates, face major challenges in many aspects of life, including water supply.

Water is a precious resource in Yemen. Many studies and seminars have been carried out to explain the gravity of our situation and the need for a future-oriented vision regarding water management.

A law draft was proposed to parliament two years ago, but has yet to be enacted.

Irresponsible drilling/pumping is making the situation even worse.

We have to attend to this matter now.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

Prof. Al-Saqqaf Dead Who is Responsible?

Everyone is asking. Thousands of people all around the world are anxious to know how this has happened. We at the Yemen Times are still in shock after our beloved chief editor's death. He was such a man of principles and dignity that all Yemenis loved him. Not only Yemenis, but he was also loved by many people all over the world. Hence, they are all asking the same question: "Who is responsible?"

Everyone saw Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf as a light for a better tomorrow. He had ambitions, well-planned strategies, and the will and faith to work as hard as he could to make Yemen a modern country. He fought with bravery and patience for the rights of the weak against the corrupt in the power centers. He had ambitions and a hope that he would one day be able to witness a civilized Yemen. He struggled very hard to introduce the institutions necessary for building a civilized and modern society.

As his son, I myself am asking the same question: "Who is Responsible?" I believe the indifference towards the implementation of the laws in Yemen is the main reason behind the death of Dr. Saqqaf. Allowing people to drive without having driving licenses and go around with speeding cars in crowded streets and without any deterrent is, in fact, a resultant of the this neglect and carelessness. It

is very sorry that the life of Dr. Saqqaf whose life was devoted for making the bases of the country of law and order was at the hand of such reckless people who should be held accountable so as to keep our society safe and secure.

Yemen has lost one of its great pillars who has served his people faithfully and could have done wonders for the country. I hereby call the President Saleh, who phoned me and also sent me a condolence message, asking me to follow up the steps of the late, to enforce the laws that would ensure the rights of the people.

We all lost a brave person whom we will always remember. With what he has left to us of great values, principles, courage, honesty, faith, and leaning to the side of the oppressed people, we will continue in the same path as the deceased led us, with even more strength and determination.

Although Dr. Saqqaf has passed away, YEMEN TIMES will live on.

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf



رحيل الدكتور عبدالعزيز السقاف من المسؤول؟

الجميع يتساءلون. آلاف الناس في جميع أنحاء العالم يشعرون بالقلق، ويريدون معرفة الحقيقة. ونحن في «يمن تايمز» لم نقف من هول صدمة رحيل الناشر ورئيس تحرير الصحيفة. فقد كان د. عبد العزيز السقاف رجلاً يتمتع بمبادئ عظيمة جعلت الناس يحبونه ويحترمونه، ليس فقط اليمنيين، ولكن كثير من الناس في مختلف بقاع العالم. ولهذا هم يسألون نفس السؤال: من المسؤول؟

لقد كان الدكتور السقاف نوراً وضياءً نحو غد أفضل. وإمتلك طموحات واستراتيجيات وخطط وإرادة وإيمان. كان يعمل ما باستطاعته ليُجلب لليمن مكاناً أفضل على الخارطة الدولية. لقد ناضل بشجاعة وصبر من أجل نصرة الضعفاء على الأقوياء الفاسدين في مواقع السلطة. ولقد كان يحلم دائماً أن يأتي ذلك اليوم الذي يرى فيه اليمن دولة تمتلك المقومات الحضارية. لقد بذل كل جهده من أجل إدخال المؤسسات الحديثة لبناء مجتمع حضاري وعصري. وإنني أسأل نفس السؤال: من المسؤول؟ وفي اعتقادي أن الإهمال في تنفيذ القوانين النافذة يشكّل أنواعها هو السبب الرئيسي لرحيل د. عبد العزيز السقاف. إن السماح لشخص بدون رخصة قيادة ونحو سوابق في حوادث أخرى بأن يقود سيارة وبسرعة جنونية ويصطدم ويجرح في شوارع عامة ومزدحمة دون رادع يعتبر أحد إفرازات هذا الإهمال والتسيب. وللأسف كانت نهاية سنوات النضال الطويلة للفقيه في ترسيخ أسس دولة النظام والقانون على يد أحد هؤلاء الذين علينا أن نرددهم وعلى القانون إيقافهم بما يكفل سلامة وأمن الجميع. لقد فقدت اليمن أحد أعلامها البارزين والذي كان يمكنه تقديم الكثير والكثير لمحبيته اليمن. وإنني أدعو فخامة الرئيس علي عبد الله صالح، الذي أكد خلال مواساته في حديثه التلفزيوني مع وبرقية العزاء التي أرسلها لي بضرورة أن أسير على نفس النهج الذي سلكه والذي، إلى تفعيل القوانين والأنظمة التي تكفل للمواطن اليمني حقوقه على أكمل وجه. لقد فقدنا رجلاً شجاعاً سنظل نتذكره دائماً بما تركه لنا من مبادئ وأخلاق وقيم وأحلام وطموحات عظيمة. كاسرة صحيفة يمن تايمز، سنواصل المشوار الذي خطه لنا المرحوم بقوة وتصميم أكبر إن شاء الله. فإن كان د. السقاف قد مات فإن يمن تايمز لم تمت. إننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

وليد عبدالعزيز السقاف

Dr. Al-Saqqaf's Life in a Book

Yemen Times has received hundreds of condolence messages by phone, fax, telegraph, and email. All of these condolences, along with the detailed life story of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf will be gathered in a book that will be exclusively published by the "Yemen Times." In the mean time, Yemen Times will be publishing articles about his life story, articles he wrote, and condolence messages in every issue of the Yemen Times. Any suggestions and comments are appreciated. If you have any personal story or encounter with the deceased, please send it to us to be published in the newspaper and in the book.

Further information regarding the book will be published in coming issues of the Yemen Times.

حياة الدكتور السقاف في كتاب

تلقت صحيفة «يمن تايمز» وأسرة الفقيد د/ عبدالعزيز السقاف المئات من رسائل التعازي عبر أجهزة الفاكس والبرقيات والبريد الإلكتروني. جميع هذه الرسائل مع سيرة تفصيلية لحياة الدكتور سوف تجمع في كتاب وستنشره «يمن تايمز». كما ستقوم الصحيفة بنشر المقالات التي تتناول قصة حياة الفقيد، والتعازي في أعدادها القادمة.

نرحب بأي إقتراحات أو تعليقات أو مشاركات.

إذا كانت لديكم أي مواقف شخصية مع الفقيد، نرجو إرسالها لنا لتُنشر في الصحيفة والكتاب.

سوف نتطرق لمعلومات أخرى حول الكتاب في الأعداد القادمة من الصحيفة.

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Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly



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Apology

We apologize to all our advertisers and article writers whose material should have appeared in this issue. Because of the unfortunate death of the publisher, this weeks issue is devoted to his memory. We would like to assure all contributors and advertisers that their material will be published next issue. All planned advertisements will be postponed one week. We thank them for their understanding.

Daddy, we will miss you..

It is impossible to put into words the relationship between father and daughter, especially when the father was Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (may Allah be merciful to him).

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was a loving father, always available to listen to whatever you wanted to say.

He never used to oblige you to do something but helped you to understand and choose the correct thing to be done.

He did not expect you to be perfect, but wanted you to do the best that you were able to do.

He always appreciated people who were willing to try, and used to say that success is the result of hard work.

He used to encourage good will, and loved to see you optimistic and faithful to improve yourself and the world around you. He never felt ashamed to be what he was, a Muslim Yemeni, and used to give us a lot of reasons to be proud to be sons of our beloved country. He was a friend ready to discuss any criticism and to apologize if he was wrong.

The most important thing: He taught us to be what we are. We are proud of you, DADDY, we will keep you in mind as a figure to look up to, we will go on as you taught us, so that you may be proud of us. We will always pray for you; may you rest in peace; may Allah cover you with his mercy and grace, and grant you the highest ranks of heaven.

Haifa



To my dear and beloved husband, Abdulaziz, May you be resting in peace sheltered in God's mercy in paradise in sha'a Allah. You left me, my love, you went out without coming back although you promised to. Fate was stronger than you and me.

We lived together for 29 years for good and bad, for better and worse I can't help the memories keep coming to me. You were such a gentle husband who made my world a better place. You who stood by who was in need, you fed the hungry, and sheltered those who had no where to go. In spite of that you were very modest, and never gave pride a space in your heart. You who did all you could for people's sake.

And now you left this world to your destination in heaven by God's will.

My dear,
Your leaving us is very tragic and I can't wait to follow you and stay with you in heaven.
We will never forget you.

Your loving wife, Aziza.

THE MAN I USED TO CALL: "DADDY"

I asked him once; "Daddy, you know, if I wasn't your daughter, what would I have wanted to be?" He said: "Yes, my daughter." He was always too good. He was also the threat mom used to use to make us behave. Yet, he was so tender, so warm. He was our idol. We used him as an image of perfection. Whatever he said or did, not only had to be right; but also wise. There were times when I could not understand him and although he sounded vague to me then, I was convinced that whatever he did had to be something smart. It was just me who wasn't getting it then and maybe I never will!

He was a man with no patience. It's true he had time for almost everybody, still it was something like time slots. You had to say whatever you wanted to in so many words and so much time, otherwise he switches off, then you know he's not listening to you anymore. And if you were lucky enough; he won't kick you out, he just ignores your existence in front of him!

I count myself lucky. People are pleased to just meet him, I lived with him for almost 20 years. In all those years, I looked up to him, he used to repeat whenever we complained about the pressure of work: "hard work never hurts, hard work never hurts!"

He raised us to love what we are doing, he always encouraged us to give our best and to do it now! He used to say: "If you can do something today, why leave it for tomorrow?"

I loved him, I still do. He was my reference in life. Something to depend on, a constant, I was so sure that whenever I needed him; he'd be there.

Oh, I believe in God, death and all that stuff. But somehow I thought my dad to be immortal. I'm not regretting his leaving us, I just wish he stayed a while, a little longer.. Maybe till I graduate. I wanted him to be there when I become an engineer. I've always looked forward to that day, just to make him happy, to make him proud of me.. Now he's gone... There are so many things I want to tell him; how much I love him, how much I miss him. I had so many bright plans for the future, I drew so many pictures of the days to come, and he was in all of them. There were times he was misunderstood, times I thought him to be cruel, or stubborn. Sometimes I just couldn't get to him, or get my message across. Yet, behind his awfully angry mask, I knew he had a tender heart.

He hated to be weak; just a headache could make him upset, because he wasn't at his best, he couldn't give his best. He was like a tough principal who won't reward the losers. He was never a loser and he wanted us to be at the top. He was someone who, even if he was wrong, had enough reasons to be right. He had the ability to sway minds. Yet, he always meant well and did good. Maybe once he was wrong; when he replied to my question I stated in the beginning of those lines. I remember clearly how he raised his eyes in surprise and pride when I replied back: "No, if I wasn't your daughter I would have wanted to be you..."

Daddy, I will be missing you.

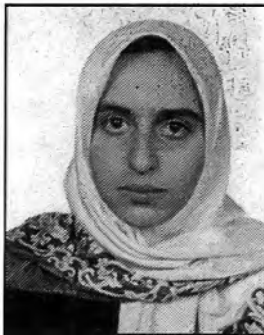
Nadia

My dear and precious father Abdulaziz,

May God bless you with his mercy and may you rest in peace with all his beloved ones. You left us, when we needed you the most. You left this family weak, left everything behind. From your being with us in our house, and from your tenderness and mercy, we lost that beautiful smile which used to lighten our home. We miss your sweet being with us which made us happiest family in this world. You left us and went to paradise, and left us in this hard world which we have to face and fight against. I lived with you for only 10 months, but I feel that I was born in this house and that you are my real father, because of the way you gave me love and tenderness. If I ever felt sick you would be there beside me to ask about my health. You gave me everything a daughter in law or daughter from the father. You never hurt me one day. I got all affection from you. You didn't know what rage was. You were never conceited, you who carry the kindest and purest heart. You who seek after all that is good even if it was at your own expense. You always praised the word of truth. You lived honest, and so you died. You fought hypocrisy even if it could cost you your life. You were a great person for your country. You lived to work. You never knew what relaxation was. You haven't really died, because you made of your children strong men and women, whom you taught patience, self-dependence and responsibility. And this is a great gift from God. As long as there's somebody to continue in your path, your fame will remain in your country. We will never forget you. You didn't die and will never die. You will live forever in our hearts. Words can never be enough to explain the way I am feeling now. It's enough that you are in our hearts. I remember that you wished for me to learn English fluently. I promise you I will. I only regret that you will not be there to hear me do so. I will always remember your advice for me and I will follow it. We always liked what you did. Although we wished you would rest a little and forget about your work sometimes. But you always insisted on working hard. Your life was a series of hard work, and now you have come to eternal rest in heaven.

My dad,
I will try to create a family just like yours. To raise my children and teach them everything you taught us. This is a promise to you that I will keep.

Your daughter in law, Afaf.

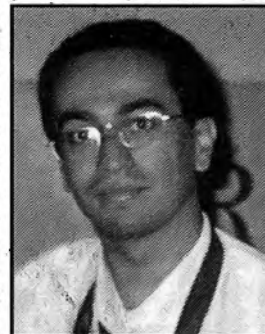


I will not ask why you left us this early. I will not ask you why you left us at all. It is the will of God, and no one can change destiny. I just want to tell you that I am your son whom you know very well, and whom you can trust. I learned everything from you. Wasn't being a strong man and a person who can withstand difficult moments something that you taught me? Weren't you the person who always kept on saying "if I one day go and do not come back, you have to carry on life and be responsible for your brother, sisters, and mother. You have to run the establishment that I created and loved so much, the Yemen Times?" You had many dreams and ambitions for the country, for the newspaper, and for our family. You had trusted in me and knew that I would be able to run the paper and take care of the family. Now that you are gone, I say "You were right." I have self-confidence and trust in myself. I will now be the person responsible for my family, for the newspaper, and for everything you left.

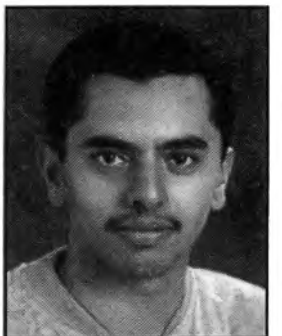
You were a brave, strong, hardworking, and successful person. You were an ideal father. You were a thinker and an intellectual. Most important of all, you were a teacher. Not only were you a beloved teacher in Sana'a University, but you were a teacher to me as well. You taught me many things in life that I could never have learned easily. You always inspired me to love my work, because you believed that whoever loves his work would devote himself and therefore eventually succeed.

Dad, I promise you, I will succeed.
I know that it will be hard to take your position in the family. I will now have to be father and brother at the same time. You left me with a huge responsibility that I will have to carry. But I know I can do it. You prepared me for it, and I will not disappoint you. I will carry on your mission of seeking the truth and reporting it whatever it is. The Yemen Times will stay, as it is, strong and mighty. You knew how to raise us as responsible men who devote themselves to their country, their family, and of course, their work. I know that there will be many obstacles, but I have your strength and power along side with me. I will use this strength to overcome any difficulties that may arise. You didn't merely leave me the paper. You also left me the love of others, from every layer of society, Yemenis and foreigners, poor and rich, and virtually everyone. They all loved you. I believe that these people will continue to be faithful to you by supporting your establishment, Yemen Times. Finally, I want to say: "Your body might have left us, but your spirit is alive and Yemen Times will survive." May God have mercy on your soul.

Walid



As I look to the sky with tears in my eye, I remember my dad, he was always beside me, he gave me all the love I need, he didn't hurt any one. All that he did was to say the truth, and help every one who needed his help. He didn't ever let me down. He worked hard day and night to prevent us from going down. He gave me everything that I need. I miss my dad. He was strong and wise. It isn't easy to be such man, but we have got to keep on. We have a good reason. If it is not for yourself at least for your country, which needs such people. No one else can be what you have been to me or to your country. I'm very proud to be your son, and I want to thank you, because you taught us how to go on and hold on in any kind of weather. Thank you dad, I'll be the best that I can, I know that you will always stay with me in my heart.



Raydan

HIS LEGACY W

Yes indeed. He is still alive and among us. He is embodied in every brave person who fights for justice, for human rights, for dignity, and for equality. He is with every man who knows his responsibilities in what he writes, and acts accordingly with faith and hope. He is alongside every human being who defends the oppressed and stands beside the weak against the strong.

نعم، لا يزال حيا بيننا. إنه في كل شخص شجاع يعمل لنصرة العدالة، والمساواة وحقوق الإنسان، وكرامته. إنه في كل شخص يعي مسؤولية الكلمة ويعمل بما يقول يحدوه الأمل والإيمان. إنه في كل انسان يدافع عن المصطهد ويقف ضد القوي مع الضعيف.



◀ The ambulance that took the deceased from the hospital to the mosque.

سيارة الإسعاف تأخذ الفقيد من المستشفى إلى الجامع

▶ The final prayers inside Al-Shouhada Mosque.

أداء صلاة الجنازة في جامع الشهداء.



▼ The crowd who came to the funeral. جموع من المشيعين.



▼ The funerary procession. مركب تشييع الفقيد.



▲ The coffin and its bearers.

نخش الفقيد وهو يحمل على الأعناق

From left : His father, Yassin Al-Saqqaf, and his sons, Raydan and Walid Al-Saqqaf accepting condolences from the Vice-President and Prime Minister. من اليسار: والد الفقيد، الحاج ياسين السقاف، وأولاده الفقيد؛ ريدان ووليد السقاف يتقبلون تعازي نائب رئيس الجمهورية ورئيس الوزراء.



Dr. Abdulaziz in Brief: A Man of Ideals and Integrity



While receiving the Freedom of Press Award - International Category, 1995

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and the UNESCO Prize

At the end of last November, 1998, I found two nomination forms on my office desk sent by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), asking me to nominate two candidates from the Arab World for the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. The prize is announced every year in Paris on May 3rd, World Press Freedom Day.

This is possibly the first time that this prestigious award, estimated at \$25,000, has gone to an Arab journalist. Therefore I was filled with joy and happiness, and I was thankful for the chance of not only being a spectator but also a participant in the Arab presence in the World of Press. As far as I know, this estimable prize has been exclusively conferred on journalists from Latin America and Africa in the past. The UNESCO prize for last year, 1998, went to Ms. Christina Anyanew, a well-known journalist and pro-democracy activist from Nigeria, Africa. I must confess that I wanted to represent my country, Yemen, in this international event without overlooking the broader lines or the prerequisites demanded for this nomination. I also found myself in unfamiliar territory, as I felt I should strike a delicate balance between my local and pan-Arab national sentiments.

However, the nomination form states that the candidate should have had a brilliant record in the defense of freedom of expression, through his press work. The nominee should have dedicated his entire career either inside his small community or across the borders of the Arab World to this goal.

On the first nomination form, I unhesitatingly wrote down the name of Professor Salahuddin Hafez, a well-known journalist in Egypt who has been an outstanding activist in the field of press freedom. Mr. Hafez has also left impressive fingerprints on the International level through his membership in a number of international associations and organizations concerned with the defense of human rights, primarily freedom of opinion and expression. Professor Hafez recently became the Secretary General of the Arab Journalists Union and the Managing Editor of the Cairo based Al-Ahram International Newspaper.

On the second form I put down the name of Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the founder of the first English Yemeni Newspaper, the Yemen Times, which has become a true portrait of the Yemeni experience in Democracy and Freedom of the Press. Moreover, Professor Al-Saqqaf has contributed significantly to the defense of civil liberties, not only through his excellent newspaper the Yemen Times, but also through his important post as the Chairman of Human rights, civil liberties & NGO Committees, in the Consultative Council.

On November 12th 1998, Mr. Alain Modoux, Secretary of the Jury, UNESCO/Guillermo Cano, World Press Freedom Prize, sent me a reply in which he acknowledge the receipt of the nomination form for Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and informed me that the Jury will be meeting before the end of the year to deliberate on the nominations. The chosen candidates, Mr. Modoux said, will be made known on 3 May 1999, World Press Freedom Day.

So far, nothing has been reported as to the winner of this year's prize, nor the relevant resolutions of the Jury in which Mr. Modoux works as a Secretary. However, I remember that Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf asked for my permission to publish something about the nomination letter that I received from the UNESCO. I told him that it was better that we should wait till the Jury reached its final decision so that we can give the occasion its becoming celebration. Thus this piece of news has remained a sort of secret until now, after the passing away of its subject Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Now I know that Mr. Alain Modoux is closely acquainted with both Professor Al-Saqqaf and Professor Hafez, as the two of them are his intimate friends and have been always respected by the UNESCO at large. Nevertheless, I cannot tell whether the sad news has reached Mr. Modoux of the tragic death of his friend just a few days ago. Nor can I tell whether he is also aware of the fact that Professor Salahuddin Hafez has recently returned from New York after having been hospitalized for four months. Unfortunately, it is said that he is having trouble with a serious disease. Let us pray for his quick recovery.

Ms. Christina Anyanew, the Nigerian Journalist, received the news of her winning of the UNESCO World Prize in jail, where she is locked behind bars to spend a 15 year sentence. The great message of the UNESCO has been felt in Nigeria as well as in whole Africa. Now the question is, will the same great message reach us here in Yemen, even after the passing away of its subject, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf?

By: Mahboub Ali

Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate

Biography of Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Personal Data:

Full Name: Abdulaziz Yassin Al-Saqqaf

Date of Birth: 24th October 1951.

Place of Birth: Hadharem Village, Hugarriah, Taiz Governorate, Yemen

Marital Status: Married, and has four children

Educational Data:

Ph.D. in International Business: Harvard University and Fletcher School, USA

MPA: Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

MA: Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA

BA: Sanaa University, Sanaa, Yemen.

Career:

Since July 1997: Member of the Consultative Council

Since February 1991: Publisher and Chief Editor of Yemen Times

Since January 1980: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor at Sanaa University

Did other jobs at various times.

NGOs and Other Associations:

- Chairman: Hadharem Welfare Association

- Secretary-General: Yemen-American Friendship Association

- Founding Member and First Secretary-General: Yemeni Association of Economists & Businessmen

- Founding Member: Arab Thought Forum, Amman, Jordan

- Founding Member: Association of Arab Economists, Baghdad, Iraq

- Founding Member: Center for Media Forum - Middle East and North Africa (CMF MENA)

- Member: American Economists Association

- Member: Middle East Studies Association (USA).

Human Rights Contributions:

Active for over 15 years in the promotion of human rights, especially with reference to children's rights, women's rights, minority rights, press freedom, etc. During this period, Mr. Al-Saqqaf was suspended from work (at Sanaa University for one year), was imprisoned seven times, beat up two times, and was subjected to numerous forms of harassment.

A: Examples of institutional contribution include:

- Founding Member: Arab Organization for Human Rights, Cairo, Egypt - 1982.

- Founding Member: Arab Thought Forum, Amman, Jordan - 1984.

- Co-Founder and Co-Sponsor: Yemeni Organization for Human Rights - 1986.

- Founder, Co-Sponsor & Executive Director: Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy - 1994.

- Member: Committee to Protect Journalists, New York - 1995.

- Founder, Co-Sponsor and President: Elections Monitoring Committee - 1996.

- Co-Founder, Co-Sponsor and Honorary Chairman: Association for Protection of Child Rights - 1997.

- Co-Founder and Co-Sponsor: Amnesty International - Yemen Chapter - 1997.

- Founder, Co-Sponsor and Executive Director: National Committee to Combat Torture - 1998.

B: Examples of Achievements include:

- Arranged release of 2,017 prisoners during November 1997 through April 1998 from jails in Sanaa, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Taiz, Aden, Lahej, Dhamar and Ibb who were imprisoned without due process of law or without regard to their rights.

- Arranged release of Yemen's most famous political prisoner, Mr. Mansoor Rajih.

- Arranged release of 27 underage prisoners and their transfer to orphanages in Taiz and Aden.

- Arranged release of 44 mentally disturbed prisoners and their transfer to asylums in Taiz and Sanaa

- Promotion of women's rights through lectures and television talk shows.

- Worked to protect Rights of Muwalladeen (Yemenis born of African mothers) who suffer from racism and other forms of discrimination.

- As Chairman of the Human Rights Committee at the Consultative Council (Upper House) organized and prompted hearings regarding many aspects of protecting human rights.

- As Chairman of the Human Rights Committee at the Consultative Council (Upper House) proposed law drafts and action regarding many aspects of protecting human rights.

Publications:

Published 8 books.

Published 42 articles published in different parts of the world.

Many articles in Yemen Times, other local media and international newspapers/magazines.

Skills:

Highly computer-literate.

Can speak, read and write Arabic, English and French.

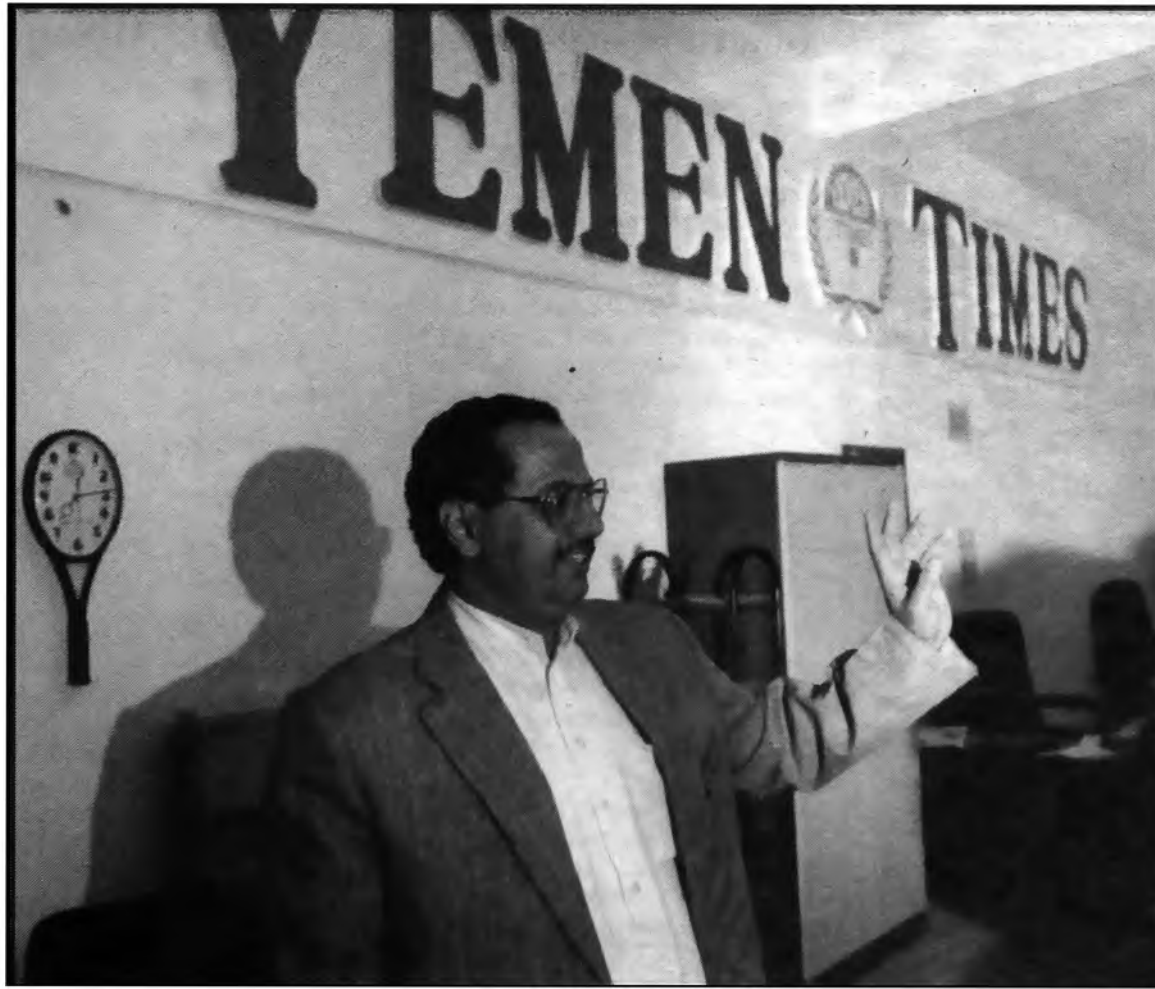
Well-travelled, having participated in many international gatherings of different sorts.

Honors:

Recipient of International Freedom of the Press Award: 1995; Washington DC.

Recipient of The Queen of Sheba Title for Services to the Nation: Yemen; 1996

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf in the Eyes of his Employees



Saying "Goodbye" couldn't have been more difficult. Good bye..

The last of the Titans Gone
It is heartbreaking and very sorrowful for me to write about such a great person as Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, for it is painful for me to realize that he has left us for good. The man had a visible impact on the life of our people, not just on his friends and the people of the Yemen Times. The gap he left can not be filled by anyone. This is because he played a pivotal role and was instrumental in the political, social and economic transformation of our society in this modern era. Dr. Saqqaf was not merely a journalist or a professor at a university, but also a titan whose main concern was to focus the attention of his people and the regime on many modern human values like democracy, human rights, press freedom and many other issues, aiming at a better tomorrow for his nation and country. He always felt worried about such issues, and hence devoted his life to these great values as he considered them a key factor in development and progress. Therefore, he was always at odds with the authorities, which spared no effort to put him down. I could feel this through my continuous reading of the Yemen Times. After that, I was offered a job with him, and I started writing for the paper. I was highly excited because I would work with a person like Dr. Saqqaf. I thought it would be difficult for me to meet the man and talk to him. But, to my surprise, I found him very modest, for he welcomed me and gave me a seat beside him and started encouraging me. Appreciating my work, he appointed me as the assistant managing editor within a 2-month time without subject-

intelligent and could understand people very quickly. Moreover, he was very hardworking and liked hardworking people. I believe he was the most hard-working person in Yemen, for I have never come to the office of the paper and not found him there, even very early in the morning. It is this deep love and devotion to his work and respect for time that gave a broad access into success and fame.

Another resounding phrase that I shall never forget is when I once called to him "sir, I would like such and such...". His answer dumfounded me. "I am not 'sir', I am Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf" was his casual and humble reply. In fact, books can be written about the man and will not be able to do him justice, for he was an academic in the true sense of the term. I do confess I have learned a lot from him, mainly courage, love of knowledge and respect for time and the true principles of journalism - pillars of the modern times. Finally, I do stress that the Yemen Times will keep on following the same pace drawn by the late Dr. Saqqaf, defending the modern values of democracy and human rights. Again, if his body has passed away, his pen and thoughts are still alive and kicking. May his soul rest in peace in paradise.

Mohammed H. Al-Qadhi

"We belong to Allah and to Allah we shall return."

Dr. Abdulaziz's death was the worst news I have ever heard in my life. I was incredibly shocked, and I did not accept it till I saw the body with my own eyes. I still have trouble believing that he has left us for good. My mind accepts, but not my

and treating you as if all of you were my sons. Because of this I want everybody to feel a responsibility for his work, I don't want to have to follow and check up after you." In fact we are his sons and we keep him alive through his newspaper, the Yemen Times.

I can't express what he was for us in words and through my grief. May God have mercy upon him.

Anwar Al-Sayyady

The incident happened fast, faster than I could conceive of it. I felt that I was living through the worst nightmare of my life, and I did not know when I was going to wake up. Only on Thursday morning, when I entered the newspaper's premises, and I saw Dr. Saqqaf's photos with a black stripe on the top left corner, did I wake up to

face the unrelenting reality, a day I was not prepared for. Dr. Saqqaf has passed away in a lamentable accident. I don't know how many people have died under the same circumstances, where a kid with no sense of responsibility has been presented with a deadly machine: a car. Why not give him a computer instead? Will the death of Dr. Abdulaziz make us realize that we need to plan and think of better ways to advertise before we place huge signboards in the middle of the road, blocking the view?

Maybe Dr. Saqqaf is not with us physically, but we can feel his presence in his dreams of establishing a civil community that calls for the respect of the individual's rights and other values such as democracy, human rights etc. He left a mark on every aspect of our lives, social, political, cultural and educational. He will always be there to remind us of his dreams, to push us when we slow down. We will always see him in every stride our nation takes towards making these values materialize.

Many questions cross my mind everytime I see Dr. Saqqaf's photo, such as, are photos and personal memories all that we have left of Dr. Saqqaf? Certainly not, for those who knew him, Dr. Saqqaf still lives on. Yes, we all have Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf in us. If we really realize and sense the values Dr. Abdulaziz lived for, and devoted our lives to follow these values to stand up for those who are tortured, harassed, oppressed, and if we strive to strengthen and safeguard our young and precious democracy.

Dr. Saqqaf died early, but he surely accomplished more than

I could not find any better words to console myself than the words of King Solomon - the wisest man in the history of mankind.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to celebrate." Good-bye Dr. Abdulaziz.

Hatem Bamehriz

An Ideal Father

It was very shocking for the people of Yemen to be informed about the loss of Dr. Saqqaf. He was the torch-bearer for all good principles and values. He was a pioneer of the true world. I have worked with him for many years and he has taught me a lot in life. Further, he always encouraged us to meet the critical moments in our life and was a model for us in this regard. He was a great thinker and scholar whose main concern was to illuminate the people of his society. May Allah receive his soul in peace.

Hayaf A. Al-Saqqaf

"Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is dead."

It was really hard to bring myself to believe that this is the only statement that can be used in the present tense about Dr. Al-Saqqaf. From now on, anything said about him must be in the past tense.

This grim reality was brought about by a tragic car accident that extinguished the light of a great writer and closed the eyes of a bold fighter. Now we all know that all humans are mortals. If there is anything that can not be doubted, contested or denied it is Death. But like many things in Yemen death is so special because it is so irrational. The life of Dr. Abdulaziz expired because of the recklessness not only of a teenager but of the entire society that does not honor human life anymore and rather allows many heedless people to have control over the tools of death. So in the nightmarish context of Yemeni, the tragic incident that snatched a life of as much greatness as Dr. Abdulaziz was only an additional score in an endlessly woe-filled sequence of premature death. In Yemen, reasons for unnatural deaths are plain and plentiful for all to suffer from. It is not only poverty and epidemics that terminates the lives of many of us, our stupidity and folly can do it too. How many people have been killed because of careless drivers? Many. How many of us have been killed over trivial disputes through the use of machine guns that are strapped over the shoulders or tied around the hips of many of us? The answer is also many. Even in our happy occasions, like marriages for example, our pleasure is often crowned with the spray of bullets that sometimes turn the wedding party into a funeral procession.

mality of our society, but I think that the first among these reasons is the dominance of our society by the tribes, which has intensified during the past few decades. As the whole world is diligently and wisely preparing itself to move into the 21st century, we are retreating to the pre-Islamic tribal Arab communities. As the world receives the 21 century with strides towards common sense and intelligence, we receive it with strides back towards nonsense. This was one issue that greatly disturbed the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and troubled his peace of mind. The Yemen 21 Forum that he founded is a true reflection of a serious endeavor to help the Yemeni society dispense with the tribal manifestations to become a more civil society ruled by respected institutions. In a sense, the whole life of Dr. Abdulaziz was a fierce battle of progress against decay, freedom against oppression, sense against nonsense, civilization against the jungle, and life against death. Ironically enough, it seems that the logic of death is still far powerful than that of life and that's why the brilliant career of Dr. Abdulaziz was so prematurely terminated.

And now to the victim.

I must first confess that I have only been working at the Yemen Times for three months, but I must admit that this short period has been one of the most wonderful and enriching experiences in my life. I think that anyone who has had the privilege of working with and under the direct supervision of Dr. Saqqaf will agree with me as to his dedication, sincerity and love of his job. I do not think that I am exaggerating when I say that Yemen Times is among the few places, if not the only place in the whole country, where the work ethic is meticulously observed and respected. The contrast becomes alarming when we know that real work ethics are not yet introduced into our country. Among the many good things for which the late was fighting, a strong work ethic came first. Indeed they were important chapters in his philosophy. Work comes first, anything else comes second. In his case it's really difficult to distinguish between the personal or the professional. Dr. Abdulaziz's personality was his work and vice versa. So, if Yemen Times, that he built almost from scratch is a good thing it means that he was also a good person. A long time ago, when Islam was still clean and not distorted, Imam Ali, peace be upon him, said that the true merit of a person depends on how well he carries out his work." Perhaps the late Dr. Abdulaziz did not know about this saying of Imam Ali, but I honestly testify that he lived up to this truth in every way.

Mohammed Ahmed Abbas

Goodbye Dear

It was a shock to lose him, that man who spent his life serving the people and Yemen. He was always available when somebody needed him. His ultimate goals in life were peace and human rights. His accomplishments are embodied in all his deeds during his life. We all can not believe that he has now left the world, and in such terrible way. His loss is an eternal grief inside all his family members and friends and inside all Yemenis. He was a man worthy of respect and it is an honor to walk in the way he paved for us.

Akram Al-Saqqaf

I was only recently employed at Yemen Times but during my employment I was very much impressed by his relationship with his employees. It was like a father with his children. This kind of relationship between a boss and his employees can very rarely be found. I have worked in other places but I have never seen this kind of relationship before. When I came to Yemen Times, I discovered a very different kind of administration, in which all the employees were 100% productive because of his relationship with them. Everyone loved him. Dr. Abdulaziz was a man possessing a vast knowledge, and I have indirectly learned many things from him during the short period of my employment. I remember his last chat with me as if it was yesterday, when he was instructing my colleague Hatem to teach me the ways in which our job works. He encouraged us all until his last moment.

I remember the first time I applied for employment at this esteemed newspaper, after many attempts at other organizations and companies. I did not have any experience in press work. My bachelors degree was even in Communications, not journalism, and in this country you cannot get a job easily in any field. Dr. Abdulaziz told me that since you are qualified we will teach you, and he said that nothing in life is impossible, but to achieve your goals you will have to struggle and fight.

He was very active and concerned with the newspaper's issues, every morning he used to come and check the latest work. His comments on mistakes were in the form of jokes, and he would never hurt anyone. He used to come show us our mistakes and teach us how to overcome it, so that we won't fall into the same mistake again. Before the every paper was issued, he used to go all around the office to check that everything was running fine. In closing, I would like to say that Yemen is an unfortunate country to have lost one of its greatest sons, who was a faithful and devoted fighter for its rights. Dr. Abdulaziz devoted his life to

this work, but what else can we say, other than that God has appointed the length of a man's life, and has set the time of his death. Dr. Abdulaziz who has dreamt of achieving lots of good things for this country through his written word and achievements but has left this country with a big gap which I myself don't think will be filled easily by some one else, but we at the Yemen Times with the supervision of the deceased's son Waleed will try to keep his word alive through his established news paper the Yemen Times and will step on his steps.

Nadim A.Hamid

Forever in Our Hearts

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf will remain a pioneer for true and frank words and a name equivalent to love, faith and peace. He will remain a source in Yemeni history forever.

I write these words to man who gave the people of his country all that he could. I think that I would need more than one large book to write about his achievements and deeds. He provided our village with hospital, electricity, water, etc. That means he provided us with life. With his efforts the Adeem Clinic was opened in our village. Not only that, but he, then provided that clinic with modern equipment. As he finished with the clinic, he followed up with the public institutions to install electricity in the village. The electricity supply included many other areas (Al-Hadharim, Adim, Al-Asabeh, Al-Qarraisha, Al-Sonne'ah). His efforts in the Arab world and international arena helped enable projects in education and qualifying tests in the same villages.

By his efforts, two new schools are being built, one is sponsored by Qatar, and the other by the World Bank. Paving roads, building sport club, and providing poor people of his village with food, etc., were also some of his touches in this respect.

I spent two years working with him in the Yemen Times. Within him I saw the true life of work.

Bassam Al-Saqqaf

A Boss or a Father

How can a smile be plucked out from the heart of people suddenly and in such a cruel manner? It's God's decision that this man of love, peace, and human rights, a man who gave his life to Yemen, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, 47, has been killed by a terrible car accident. A car has taken away the life of my soul's father. "Oh, if it were possible, I would burn all cars in the world". Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was my boss for a time. But, I never saw him as a boss. All I can say is that I had a father from December 8, 1998, until June 2, 1999, and then he was gone. "Oh, how I can fill this gap

inside me again?"

I still remember that he pushed me gently to learn many things, and if not for him, I would not be what I am now. I still remember. It is as if it happened just a few minutes ago. He always came in the morning smiling and joking with everybody.

I still remember the taste of the candies he used to buy for us some days, as if he were a father and we were his kids.

I still remember when we had our breakfast together in the Yemen Times, one family with him.

I still remember when I had my final exams and he shouted at me "Go back home! I don't want to see your face here until you finish your exams."

I still remember that I was absent for almost one month, and then I got my salary anyway.

I still remember our staff meetings in the Yemen Times. They were friendly and fruitful.

I still remember when I decided to resign. I said, "It is a better position and a very good salary." He tenderly said, "I want you to be perfect, little daughter"

I still remember and I feel him coming with candies again.

I still remember and remember and remember, and my heart cries and falls deeply into grief...

The sun rose one-day when Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was born, and it set again when he died... Will the sun rise again? How many centuries will pass until Yemen has another Saqqaf? God, I have been always satisfied with everything you pre-terminate. For my sake, God, let peace fall upon him and let the heavens be his last and eternal home.

Nadwa Al-Dawsari

My hands couldn't write. How could I express the loss of this dear person whose pen and words were weapons to fight corruption? We lost a father, a brother and a friend. He has gone, leaving us like young orphans. He taught us patience and now he is gone, and with his leaving we have lost everything.

It was a shock when I heard the news of his death: How can he leave us alone without support? Nobody can deny how he used to help poor people, with his hand helping everybody. Yes, he was a tower of love and work. He was mostly a fountain of love.

We found him always a lover of work, and a person who never met with laziness. He always used to say to us: "Sons, I want you to do well in your work, so that I can be proud of you"

"Oh, you left us while we are in dire need to you"

"You left us with the Yemen Times, please be sure that it will continue and we will all work hard for that. Take it a promise that we will all stand by your son in his hard task"

"Abdulaziz, you have gone away. But, you will remain alive in our hearts and your deeds will be our guide and pass to the future. May God have mercy upon you."

Marwan Al-Saqqaf

The news of his death was the last catastrophe. How can a broken heart express anything beyond that? There are no words that will work for that. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was even more than a father and advisor. As his relative, I worked with him in the Yemen Times from an early age. I gained a lot of experience from him. His advice and direction helped me in many things. He taught me how to work hard, and how to depend upon myself and how to be a reliable man. He taught me how to love Yemen and how to transfer that love in my work.

I promise you, dear father, that I will continue on the way you started and that your words will be my support in life. Your memories will take a permanent place inside my heart until I meet you again. They will be a new beginning for my life to go on.

Tour principles and the Yemen Times will be the candle by which we pass through the dusts of life.

Go, father to your final home, and be in rest, we will all together continue the way you started.

Imad Al-Saqqaf

To the one who was the hope of Yemenis:

To the one who taught us to loving the country, like he taught us truth and faith..

To the one whose words are our hearts light to face the absurdities of life..

To the one who was a symbol of hard work..

To the one whose ideas and thoughts have been and will be always our principle in life..

One of his great sayings that stuck in my mind is when he said in one of our staff's meetings: "I don't praise a person who does good. I rather push him to work harder, for surely he still has more and better to come."

Rasheed Ali Al-Saqqaf

Saqqaf is in Our Hearts

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf will remain alive in our hearts forever. We will never forget his precious advice. He was truly a father to all the people. He was always ready to help anybody. With his departure, it is not only the Yemen Times and his family that will suffer his loss, but also the whole Yemeni nation.

In fact, he loved his country to the extreme and was ready to die for it. I feel I am unable to write much, for I can not believe now that he has gone forever.

Yousef Sharif

Hafidh Turbush,

It is hard to recall my memories of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf now that he has passed away. The catastrophe that has afflicted us in the Yemen Times is so great to recover our sanity so soon. As Muslims, we submit to the will of Allah, but it was a severe blow to all of us. So, we need as much condolences as does the family of the late Dr. Al-Saqqaf.

The times I spent with him were the best moments of my life. Whenever he was around I used to learn something new from him. Our loss at his demise was indescribable. He was not just a

boss for me, he was rather a father, a guide, and every thing that is dear and cherished. As his relative, he used to support my inner peace and dissipate my fear at the changes of life. His faith in Allah was always unshakable and I will always look upon him as a role model for anyone who seeks to prosper in this life and the hereafter.

May Allah receives his soul in peace, mercy and eternal happiness in heaven.

Nayif Abdualh Al-Saqqaf

Death is something that we all will face, only Allah is immortal. Dr. Saqqaf has preceded us to a destiny that we all must face. I hope that my simple words can bring us some comfort. I would like to discuss some of the things that made Dr. Abdul Aziz stand out in these times.

He had very high morals, and he was loved and respected by others for his reliability, honesty and generosity. He gave and accepted criticism without anger or malice. He was very hard working and intense, and was always the first to get to work in the morning. Finally, he was always humble, and lived by what he said. He made a place for himself in our hearts, and everyone recognized his great abilities.

Yasser Mohammed Ahmed

The man who was our guide to the future is gone. This compassionate father, sympathetic brother and sincere friend has left this world. The soul of a great freedom fighter and an honest writer is in heaven. Our only solace is that the values for which he fought all his life will never die. We pray that Allah will receive him in peace and mercy and help us to carry on the message of a great man.

Afra Zubair Ahmed

When I heard that Dr. Saqqaf had died, I couldn't believe that it had happened. I was in Dhamar at the time, but I rushed home immediately to find out if the news was true. I almost collapsed when I heard that it was, and then when I saw the body, I was really hit hard. It felt like I couldn't breathe, and I just wanted to cry.

He was like a father to me, always helping, teaching and advising me. Every day that I go to work, I still almost expect him to be there, laughing and working.

Fatima Al-Azani

Our loss is huge, no words can express it. I really doubt if there will be anyone like him again, considerate, caring, and loving. He was a candle lighting my path, giving me hope. A hope of a beautiful Yemen, a hope of freedom, justice and love. He taught me how to love and how to be loved. He was a teacher for us all.

I pay my respect to you dear sir.

the results of his work will never fade away. For a long time, I have always found in him a great personality with a penetrating mind and a profound ability to confront challenges. His untimely death has dumbfounded me and the only solace that comforts me is that his brilliant history will be a source of wealth for all of us in the Yemen Times.

Esma'eel Al-Ghabri

I dedicate these simple words to the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, a brave man of the world who never swayed nor bent in defending and spreading the values of justice and human rights. This great man has passed away. For me he was not only a boss but also a father, a brother and a friend. During my 8 years of working with him, I have learned many things. Among these things is respect for work and the courage to say what one thinks is right and integrity to defend your convictions.

May Allah receive his soul in peace, mercy and grace.

Ridhwan A. Al-Saqqaf

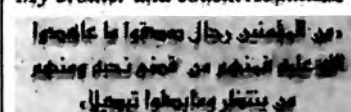
He left us early, nobody expected him to leave us when we needed him the most. Destiny has its way, as a good friend of Dr. Abdulaziz said "God calls the good people to join him."

His departure at this time was unimaginable, just a day before the tragedy we were discussing and planning for the week ahead, but God's plans were different. I will always remember you in my work and try to follow in your steps, I will remember you in my prayers and in everything I do. I will miss you.

Walid Abdulla Al-Saqqaf

Our loss is huge, no words can express it. I really doubt if there will be anyone like him again, considerate, caring, and loving. He was a candle lighting my path, giving me hope. A hope of a beautiful Yemen, a hope of freedom, justice and love. He taught me how to love and how to be loved. He was a teacher for us all.

I pay my respect to you dear sir.

My brother and cousin Abdulaziz


Our misfortune at losing you is great, and words are not enough to describe the horrifying accident which has caused us to lose you, this painful shock has battered us all.

Your noble values and principles will remain for ever as a torch which will show us our way in building this beloved nation. We and millions of people faithful to the right, justice and humanity, have cried that we have lost you. We all wish for your soul to rest in peace. Our only condolence is the legacy you leave, in the people you have trained and the work which you started.

**Your Brother
Ridha A. Al-Saqqaf**

Condolences to the Yemen Times and Family

After the death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Publisher of the Yemen Times, had been announced, an overwhelming number of condolence messages have been sent to the Yemen Times by fax, telegraph, and email. As the new Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief, I thank all the people who sent us these messages, and assure them that even though Dr. Abdulaziz is dead, Yemen Times is still alive, and will survive. The publisher was the person who established this newspaper, and he is the person who built it on a very strong basis that is strong enough to withstand even his death. I promise you all that I will do my best in continuing in the mission of my father. I know that he is looking down at us from heaven and expecting us to continue in his footsteps. He should never think that we will turn him down. I believe that all the support to the Yemen Times given by our readers through these condolences will motivate us further, and push us to continue in our mission for a better Yemen. Thank you all.

I wish to express to you and your family my condolences for the death of your father. I last talked to him the day before the tragic accident that deprived us of his company forever. He interviewed me just a few weeks ago. Beyond what he reported with his crafty professionalism, our conversation was deep and nurtured by his love for Yemen and his uncompromising urge to better the political, social and economic environment of the country through what he could best do: using the powerful voice of the media.

Because of my recent arrival in Yemen, I had no chance of becoming a friend of your father. Yet he is one of the few persons whom I felt that I could really relate to and become friend with. It is not consolation, but feel proud that the death of your father is not only a terrible loss for you and your family but also a loss for Yemen as a country and for the Yemeni people. Personally, I lost as well. I lost the chance of having a real Yemeni friend.

With my sorrow for the death of your father, I cannot avoid remembering the first time I met him, some eight months ago, in his office. It was when he found out that I was Italian, the conversation came naturally to the subject of our families. We shared our pride for our children, our hopes for their future, and our desire for a better world in which they could happily live. I was deeply touched by this conversation. I wish to evoke it in offering my condolences to you and your family.

Gianni Brizzi
Resident Representative,
World Bank Resident Mission in Yemen

It was with great sadness that we at the Middle East Program of Amnesty International read the news about Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. On behalf of the program I would like to express our sincere condolences.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf contributed a great deal to human rights in Yemen and was held in high esteem, both professionally and personally, by his friends and colleagues here at Amnesty International. His tireless and selfless efforts to promote human rights will long be cherished by human rights activities across the world.

Your and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Our heartfelt sympathy is with each and every one of you.

June Ray
Director
Middle East Program
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO has been totally shocked and stunned to learn of the tragic death of your husband, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. We would wish to convey to you and your family our deepest sympathy and condolences on behalf of UNESCO, and especially the Sector for Communication, Information and

Informatics and the Program for Freedom of Expression and Democracy.

His life-long commitment to freedom of expression was highly appreciated and admired by not only us and our fellow colleagues in the Communication Sector, but also by professional media people throughout the world. He worked unswervingly on the preparation and organization of the Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media held in Sana'a in January 1996 and the successful outcome of the meeting was very much the result of his

fervent efforts and ideals.

As a man who possessed so many multi-cultural facets, he was greatly liked and respected among the international community, and he leaves behind him a legacy which will be difficult to follow.

Once again please accept our most sincere condolences on the loss of this great man, who will forever remain in our thoughts.

Henrikas Yushkevichus
Assistant Director-General
Sector for Communication, Information and Informatics
(UNESCO)

Alain Modoux
Director
Programme for Freedom of Expression and Democracy
(UNESCO)

It is with so much sorrow that I learned of your father's passing away yesterday.

I have had the privilege of meeting with him on several occasions in the past two years, discussing human development and human rights issues. The last I saw him was when we shared a flight together when he went to Qatar two weeks ago and we discussed one of the presentations he had made in Canada. I have always been struck by his abounding love of the people of Yemen, and his dedication to human rights worldwide.

The people of Yemen have lost a great leader and their foremost advocate. The international community in Yemen and worldwide has lost the man who was a window of Yemen to the world.

Today, all my colleagues in UNICEF, and I feel a great sense of loss and tragedy, for the person, the family and the nation. We present our deep felt condolence to yourself and the family, and to the family of the Yemen Times.

May God grant him mercy and surround him with loving care.

Habib Hammam
Representative (UNICEF)

We are writing to convey our deepest condolences, and those of our colleagues, on the death of Dr. Abdulaziz. We are all profoundly saddened by the news and can only imagine your suffering. Please know that our thoughts are with you.

We remember Dr. Abdulaziz as a man of principle and courage. His commitment to democracy, human rights, and a democratic future for his country was impressive and heartening to those who worked with him towards similar objectives. In Dr. Abdulaziz, NDI found a friend of sound judgment and absolute sincerity, one whom we can never replace. We will miss him very much.

Once again, our hearts go out to you in this very difficult time.

Ken Wollack

President
(NDI)

Les Campbell
Regional Director
Middle East and North Africa Division
(NDI)

Reporters Sans Frontières wishes to express its deepest sympathy over the accidental death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, founder, publisher and chief-editor of *The Yemen Times*, on 2nd June 1999. We wish to express our sincere condolences to Al-Saqqaf wife and children as well.

We considered him a sincere friend of human rights. His death in a road accident constitutes a great loss for press freedom in Yemen.

Robert Ménard, General Secretary
Reporters Sans Frontières

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Editor in Chief of Yemen Times and CMF MENA founding Broad Member, died yesterday at 3:20 PM in a road accident in Sana'a, Yemen. A car hit Abdulaziz while he was crossing the road. The Yemeni authorities are investigating the accident.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf was one of the leading human rights defenders in Yemen and the Arab world. Among his many achievements, he helped set up the Center for Media Freedom in the Middle East and North Africa.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf was an essential player in the organization of the UN/UNESCO sponsored Regional Conference on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media held in Sana'a in January 1996. The Sana'a Declaration, which was adopted by Arab journalists in Sana'a, was endorsed by all Arab countries at the UNESCO General Conference in November 1997. The Sana'a Declaration (drafted by a working group of Arab journalists headed by Dr. Al-Saqqaf) was adopted by CMF MENA as its mandate in the Arab countries.

A young and energetic leader, Dr. Saqqaf will be greatly missed by his family, his colleagues, friends, his country, and his larger family of Arab journalists and human rights defenders. CMF MENA director Said Essoulami said:

"The Arab World has lost a staunch defender and promoter of press freedom. His legacy will be continued by CMF MENA."

The board and staff of CMF MENA would like to express their deepest sympathies to his family and colleagues.

Center for Media Forum -
Middle East and North Africa

I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences on the terrible news about Abdulaziz. He was a good and brave man, and will be a great loss to Yemen.

Brian Whitaker
Guardian Newspaper, London

Dr. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who has died aged 49 today, June 2nd, 1999, was an outstanding scholar, thinker and journalist whose contribution to the Yemeni community was outstanding. Highly respectable, approachable and sensitive, he was the peoples' HERO who conducted his affairs with dignity, wisdom and style. Nobody was better qualified to perform the task of guiding Yemeni Society in their struggle to build a vibrant and dynamic country.

His death is a big loss for the entire Yemeni Society. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's training in Socio Political sciences, combined with his grassroots experience, practical wisdom and courage to deal with real issues head-on, leaves a gap that will be

hard to fill. He will be especially missed by educated Yemenis for whom he was the one "Sheikh" (Tribal Leader) they had come to trust.

Muslim Educational Trust (MET)

As-Salamu alaikum wa Rahmtullah. I heard the sad news today after a long day of work at the office. Inna Lilah wa Inna Ilaihi Rajoon (We belong to Allah and to Allah we shall return).

May the deceased's soul rest in peace. On Behalf the Muslim Community in Portland, Oregon I would like to send you our deepest condolences as well as to the rest of the family members and to all of our Yemeni Society all over the world.

Sincerely,

Wajdi Abdo Saeed
MET Executive Manager, USA

It was with great shock and profound sorrow that I learned of the death of my friend Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, founder and chief editor of the Yemen Times. He was a good man, and a personal friend of mine. He will be missed in Jordan and the rest of the Arab world as a brave defender of justice. Please accept my sincere condolences.

Riad al Khour, MEBA

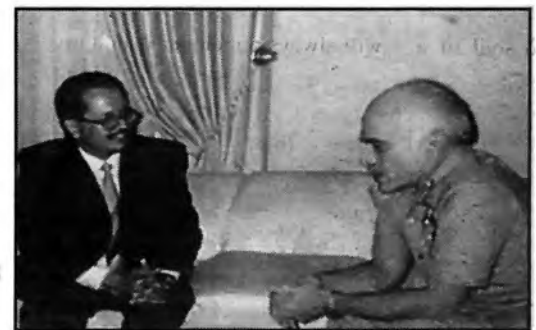
Please accept our sincerest condolences on the passing of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. This is a big loss. With my Sympathy to his family at home and at Yemen Times.

Bassam Audi
Global Media Services, Dubai

Accept our heartfelt sympathy on this great loss of yours.

May Allah grant peace to his soul. God is great keep up the good work.

Web International Team (www.yenet.com)



With the late King Hussain Bin Talal



With Hassan Bin Talal.



With Yasser Arafat.



The late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf with H. H. Mr. Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.



With the late Francois Mitterrand.



With Hussain Aldeed in the office of Yemen Times



With Botrous Ghali, Ex UN Secretary General



With Mr. Amr Mousa, Egyptian Foreign Minister

WILL LIVE ON!



▲ The coffin being carried out of the mosque. إلى مدافن الشهداء. الفقيد يُحمل من جامع الشهداء



▲ The coffin being carried to the grave. يحملون الفقيد إلى مثواه الأخير.



▼ Final moments before the burial. جمهور المشيعين قبل دفن الفقيد مباشرة.



FRIENDS FOREVER

The most dignified relationship between human beings is that of friendship. But, this quality differs among people. And fiends are of different types and categories. Some like friendships because of the interest they might get from. Some like it for its own sake. Some people remain loyal to their friends when they are alive and forget them after their death and those are false friends. True friends are those who remain loyal forever, even after their friends' death. Here are some of Dr. Saqqaf's loyal friends.

THE LOSS OF A A FRIEND AND A CHAMPION

Losing a good friend is a tragedy but losing an exceptional friend is a catastrophe. The death of Dr. Abdulaziz was a very devastating catastrophe for me. I have now known Dr. Abdulaziz for almost 19 years, since his return from the US with his Ph.D. degree. I was the Sana'a University Vice Rector. Right from the very first day Dr. Al-Saqqaf joined Sana'a University, we felt that we had gained an active, intelligent and motivated faculty member. He had no qualms about his abilities and the goals he wants to achieve. He was an agitator who felt that change cannot come about without an attempt to motivate people and get them to realize their potential and their role in change. He worked with a cooperative movement at his home village Al-Hadharem, and through his experience with the cooperative movement learned about the potential of NGOs in development and improving local conditions.

He was a man with diverse interests, and when he got frustrated with his faculty at Sana'a University he took a sabbatical and worked as Vice-Dean of the Banking Institute in Oman-Jordan. He then returned to Yemen, feeling that he will do best serving his own country. The unification of Yemen and the Establishment of Yemen Times was a turning point for Dr. Al-Saqqaf. Democracy and Human Rights became his new commitment as cornerstones for protecting Yemen and its unity.

He felt that his criticism of the establishment should not be considered an attempt to undermine it, but a source for strengthening it. Accepting criticism clearly demonstrates locally and internationally that Yemen is truly democratic and that it learns from criticism to make things better. Dr. Abdulaziz was unique in putting the country before any personal and political gains and took a stance that was different from most other opposition groups. He might have held, at times, different views, from mine and other's but no one has ever questioned his integrity and commitment to Yemen's Democracy and Human rights. It is enough that President Ali Abdullah Saleh considered his death and absence as a loss to democracy and Yemen.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf's way of thinking and approach to dealing with issues in courageous, innovative and non-tradition ways and this is what is not realized by many who many have held grudges against him. He was a successful man and success has a price to be paid in Yemen. Today every one is memorizing Dr. Abdulaziz friends and foes, in Yemen and abroad. He will be remembered for even as the champion of Freedom of speech, Democracy and Human Rights. May God Bless Him.

By: Dr. Abu Baker Al-Quirbi

WHAT A TRAGEDY?! WHAT A LOSS?!

Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, born in 1951 left us suddenly so young in age when his views, input and participation in public life were much needed for the further development of the evolving democratic experiment of Yemen.

We first came to know each other in July 1983 at the "International Symposium on Contemporary Yemen" organized by the Universities of Sana'a, Aden and Exeter; held in Exeter UK. Aziz took part in the symposium as lecturer from Sana'a University while I participated in it as a lecturer from the University of London. Our friendship and cooperation continued and grew over the past 16 years. It was obvious for me to note even from the early days of our friendship that Aziz had a dream which he gradually managed to formulate into a vision and this at last he succeeded in changing into a reality. Yemen Times by itself has become one of the notable institutions in Yemen is enough proof of how far Aziz has succeeded in the field of self-achievement.

His vision, complimented by a remarkable zeal and courage had no limits. With such credentials, Aziz's contributions were paramount to the success of many conferences, workshops, symposia, committees etc.; many of which can be considered as milestones as well as part and parcel of the overall changes which Yemen has seen in this last decade of the twentieth century and in particular those changes related to achieving and maintain-

ing its unity and promoting its evolving democratic experiment.

One of Aziz's greatest virtues was tolerance and his ability to establish friendships even with those who didn't agree with his views. I can easily name many activities and projects in which Aziz participated and happily gave up the role of the major player to others in spite of the fact that his role and that of the Yemen Times were the basis for the success of those events. Perhaps our cooperation with each other in many different activities stand up as a clear example of such a virtue which is so much needed in Yemen at this stage of its democratic development, namely tolerance. For though he knew that I was a member of the ruling party's political leadership he never hesitated to give me the seat of the major player in many events which he was a major contributor to - e.g. the Campaign for the supply of the vaccines for children in 1986, the Yemeni Saudi Relations Symposium, the symposium for the draft law of local government, the endeavor to establish the local chapter for Transparency International and the formation of the Yemen 21 Forum etc. In all such activities Aziz proved that he could easily manage to bring together people of different views and diverging political affiliations for the sake of promoting values and ideals related to the major issues of democracy, human rights, civic society organizations, the commitment for the rule of law and order and the institutionalization of the Modern State of Yemen. I know that many people considered Aziz an anti-establishment activist, while many others thought of him as being a supporter of the ruling authorities in his own way; but both such sides can never but agree that by the tragic death of Aziz Yemen has lost a great son and patriot at a time when his contributions were very much needed and at an age when such contributions would have been at their peak in terms of innovation, creativity and excellence. What a pity that we have lost him at such a time, but whatever his future potentials were Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf has managed to get himself into the pages of the history books of Modern Yemen and he shall continue to be remembered as a pioneer whose sudden disappearance has left most of those who knew him in a state of temporary shock and disbelief of whether he has truly left the stage for ever. Perhaps if he had a wish to convey before his tragic death I would risk to say it would have been the big task of maintaining and promoting his greatest legacy; the multifaceted institution of the Yemen Times. That is the challenge which his family and the Yemen Times' staff are now confronting and which I sincerely hope they will manage to shoulder successfully armed by some of Aziz's greatest characters of courage, resolution and perseverance.

By : Prof. Mohammed Abdul Mageed Qubaty
Adviser to the Presidium of the Parliament,
Secretary of the Political Committee of the PGC Party

IT IS AN ABSOLUTELY HORRIBLE PIECE OF NEWS, HORRIBLE FOR YEMEN AND EVERYONE WHO KNEW HIM

Dr. Saqqaf was a good friend of NDI over our years in Yemen, and has given the Institute prominent coverage as part of his work to advance democracy, respect of human rights, rule of law and the general development of his country.

It is hard to think of a death that would be more shocking to this country, he was well-known and liked. I think he could be described as an agent-provocateur of where and what Yemen could be; he was so desirous of seeing Yemen achieve its full potential.

We had a wonderful lunch together, he had an infectious sense of humour, and even as we sat there I remarked on how he laughed so well. What was also so clearly evident was the strong friendship he shared with Minister Al-Tayeb and Dr. Al-Quirby. It was obvious that they possessed a long-standing friendship that went back many years, one of my NDI colleagues even commented on it to them. It was just a great lunch, a privilege really.

When we left I said we would see him the next day as NDI was going to have lunch again to discuss our upcoming Emerging Democracies Forum, and he replied "Insh'Allah." Life is so precious, because he spoke those words, we shook hands and then he walked away. It gives one pause to stop and consider life, its meaning and why we are here.

It is incredibly sad news, a shock really. NDI is in mourning for a great friend. As a friend in DC shared with me yesterday, the rest of us have to live through the sorrow and endure the vacuum left by such a great man.

Derek Butler

NDI Field Representative, Yemen

It was too shocking for me, members of my family and members of our Embassy, to learn of the sudden and untimely demise of my only

friend, so far, in Yemen Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf on 2nd June, 1999. I was so disturbed in my mind that I had to leave the reception at Taj Sheba Hotel minutes after I had attended it, which had been organized by our colleague H. E. Mr. Vitaliano Napoleone, the Italian Ambassador on their National Day.

Now I feel repentant that I should have waited for Mr. Al-Saqqaf at his residence on 31st May, 1999, at least to say the last good-bye to him, when I was one of his guests at dinner, and when he informed us, with the request that we must wait for him, that he had been called by H. E. Mr. Abdul Karim Al-Eryani - the Prime Minister, though the guests decided to leave around 9.30 P.M. when they had kept waiting for him for more than an hour.

May God give courage to you and your mother to bear this irreparable loss!

H. E. M. S. Suman
The Indian Ambassador
Yemen

من شاء بعدك فليمت فعليك كنت أحاذر

ما كنت أصدق الخبر المشؤوم الذي نقله التلفزيون ليلة الخميس السابعة التاسعة من أن المنية خطفت ظهر يوم الأربعاء 16 صفر 1420 هجرية 1999/6/2م فلذة من فلذات كبد اليمن وعينا من عيون رجالها، إنه الأخ العزيز والزميل والأستاذ والصدیق د. عبد العزيز السقايف رحمه الله. إن شفتي التي جف ريقهما لمرارة النبأ لم يجد سوى قوله سبحانه الذين إذا أصابتهم مصيبة قالوا إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون وقول النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم لأبي ذر: يا أبا ذر إذا حز بك أمر -أي أحزنك- فأكثر من لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله فإنها كنز من كنوز الجنة.

سأردها بعدك يا أبا الوليد حتى ألقى الله. فقد كنت رجل مواقف مقداما شجاعا تصدع بالحق وتقف في وجه الباطل. لقد فقدنا برحيك سنانا ولسانا ومقاتلا في سبيل الدفاع عن حقوق المظلومين. وأنا واحد من الذين دافعت عنهم وناضلت لرفع ظلامتهم. ولن أنسى شخصك الكريم وأنت واقف كالقلعة الشامخة توأسيني وتشد من أزري وأنا بالسجن من أجل نصيحة قلتها وظننت أنك تحمست لي فقط، فلما زرتك في مقرك في صحيفتك الغراء «يمن تايمز» ذهلت وأنا أشاهدك لتتحرك في خلية نحل في كر وفر تنصر الضعيف وتغيث الملهوف، وهذه من صفات جدك المصطفى صلى الله عليه وسلم. ولا أعيب فيك شيئا إلا أنك تركتنا في درب مظلم وهربت إلى الله خائفا أن تكون مقصرا في الواجب في زمن القاصرين والمقصرين. فعليك السلام حيا أو ميتا.

من شاء بعدك فليمت فعليك كنت أحاذر
فعرانا الله فيك وأحسن الخلافة في أسرتك الكريمة. وعوض محبيك خسارتهم فيك.

الأسيف: د/ المرتضى بن زيد المحطوري الحسني

A Poem To My Friend

These are your eyes
That once filled up our sky with love and hope:
It was indeed your smile that brightened this gloom, our land.

My dearest friend:
you had no ties with me,
Nor with those who saw you speak and smile,
Except your hand and mouth of piercing truth.

Like Noqom you always stood so tall,
Sana'a's only mount,
Its guide to a better life,
Its scourge, its wrath,
Its epitaph unto itself:
Its sign of what it has done
And the worst to come.

Your tongue, much missed, and now for evermore,
Has filled those colorless heads
With fairness and valor.
All that was needed to be said, you did
With graciousness and undaunted hopefulness,
With innocence that baffled all.
Those who saw your heart, manners, charm,
Did so but dreaded too,
For fears that you may once
exceed yourself and theirs.

What you have done and left behind
Is just to greet to see,
For you have planted hope in all
And such disturbing fearlessness
which you mastered so well.

Dr. Mohammed Sharafuddin

Soul of Wisdom:

Precious Words by the deceased

When I decided to compile some of the late Saqqaf's best words from his articles published in the Yemen Times, I found it very difficult. I went through the Yemen Times archives since its start in 1991 to pick up some wise words of Dr. Saqqaf that were worthy of being immortalized. I found all

dom and many other values. He struggled very hard for them and was instrumental in introducing them into our political, social and economic life. However, they remain just small pieces in the profound dictionary of his life. Here are some of these highly beautiful words written by Dr. Saqqaf.

"The basic source of wealth should be one's work."

his articles, mainly "Our Viewpoint" column rich with highly precious phrases that reflect and picture the mentality and meaningful approach of Dr. Saqqaf towards life. He wrote about various topics and crucial issues in Yemen and the world. But, I could observe that the focal point and primary concern of Saqqaf was human rights, democracy, press free-

"President Saleh has to prepare the country for the 21st century. This can only be done by introducing meaningful change into the system. The two foremost requirements for any modern system are accountability and transparency. He can not continue to give lip service to these issues. He has to show that he intends real implementation."

"Within the Arab region, human rights was a virtual taboo. I remember in the late 1970s, a group of Arab intellectuals started making noise about the need for respect of citizens by the state. The idea developed momentum until in December 1982, 18 of us- Arab intellectuals and human rights activists met to establish the Arab Organization for Human Rights. We could not find a place to meet in the whole Arab world. So, we met in Cyprus and launched the effort from there. I also remember as I come back to Yemen from the meeting, the dean at my college at Sanaa university called me in and grilled me about the crime I had just committed. I was immediately dismissed as chairman of the economics department, and was subjected to many other complications. Since then, I have been able to remain in the blacklist of our Political Security Organization."

"The basic requirement for the success of any reform is good governance, which we presently don't have in Yemen. Hence, hundreds of millions of dollars, poured in by multilateral and bilateral donors, is a misuse of funds. In addition, it leaves us saddled with a new debt, however good the terms."

"Democracy is not just a bunch of rituals behind which power-hungry politicians can hide. Democracy is a system, is a way of thinking, it is a style of living, it is an environment which follows various individuals and groups to be and do their best."

"One of the key characteristics of working in the media is the concept of deadlines. Everything has a deadline. Everybody is under some kind of time pressure. While this pressure may not be good for one's health, it is a wonderful contributor to efficiency."

"Unless there is a true commitment to the democratization process based on acceptance of the people as the final arbiter of power in a meaningful relationship between the general public and politicians, the whole transformation process will be a sad joke."

"One fact of life is about basic economics. Unless a society can make progress at the economic front, whatever progress is made at any other fronts is brought to naught. This is the basic lesson which our politicians should comprehend. The basic source of

wealth should be one's work. Mind you, I am not a communist, but I have a lot of respect

because of their broad-based interaction. They give tangible meaning to popular participation

"Producing the Yemen Times is a very difficult, demanding, and trying task. But we like the challenge."

for hardwork, not necessarily physical exertion."

"For those who are aware and for those who are not aware, it is absolutely crucial that we all prepare ourselves for the next century. The main source of power and wealth in the next century is going to be knowledge and the ability to organize and use it optimally. There are two dimensions to knowledge-education as an overall base and informatics as a tool for its use is a specialized sense. Therefore, for those who want to prepare themselves, they better address those two issues."

"It is important that the regime gives the majority of Yemenis a stake in its fortunes. If the people have nothing to fear in the system, they will not be inclined to defend it against any onslaught. It is important that all Yemenis should feel that they have a stake in the system; otherwise they won't identify with it"

"In all cultures worldwide, responsibility grows with social and political stature. That is probably because more power entails more responsibility by definition. Also because people with a higher public profile traditionally become role models and, therefore, shoulder a higher burden. In addition, leaders are often seen as a source of inspiration and spiritual and moral guidance. For those and many other reasons, people at the top power structure carry a bigger responsibility than the average individuals."

"It is my belief that grass-roots level organizations such as unions and syndicates are vital contributors to the system

respect the law, as government bureaucrats, we should respect the law, and as leaders, we should respect the law. Living by the law is the other side of the coin called democracy. Let us help stop these citizens who break the law, let us help stop those bureaucrats who break the law, and let us be ready to stop our leaders when they break the law. This is the way to safeguard our freedom and to preserve our democracy."

"In the final analysis, the better humans are those that are more able to live with one another and help one another. That actually is the base of the Yemeni mentality and character throughout ages. That is why we were successful as merchants, as messengers,

"Yemen needs politicians who are true to the ideals they propagate and accountable to the public"

"Development is not merely an accumulation of capital. It has a moral component which elevates society to behave within certain norms and values. A corrupt system can not lead to prosperity for all members of society.... The Republic of Yemen already is poor in resources. If such a disadvantage is further coupled with the wrong values, then our society will be saddled with poverty and backwardness for a long time."

"A true democracy is based on tolerance, especially of different points of view. Yemeni officials can prove to be democratic by showing their tolerance and respect of the freedom of the person. The Ministry of Information should not claim to be the guardian of thought. A democratic society does not need one."

"We in Yemen need to nurture within us the automatic inclination to respect the law. As citizens, we should respect the law, as businessmen, we should

and as mediators and middle-men throughout history. Snobs and self-righteous people could never have succeeded in those trades. The question is: "Are we losing touch with our nature as Yemenis?"

"One of the virtues of democracy is to bring a certain degree of accountability to the system. This is a good place start. Could our leaders lay down the rulers for giving away government money?"

"I have always known that the system of Yemen is not hospitable to the well-educated. It is a fact that the people who feel most at home in Yemen are the sheikhs and their tribesmen. The lawyers, engineers, physicians, PhDs, journalists, accountants and other professionals are in a constant search for a home elsewhere in the world. With this happening, no one can convincingly tell me we have a good government in Yemen."

Compiled by/ Mohammed
Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times

regardless of the external pressure
p.3

OURVIEWPOINT

Introducing the YEMEN TIMES

THIS IS The first issue of the Yemen Times. Therefore, it is with pleasure that I use this editorial to introduce it to the reader.

The YEMEN TIMES is an independent weekly paper not attached to any political party or thought. As such, its stand vis-a-vis the various local, regional, and international issues is determined on the basis of an objective assessment of the merits and demerits involved. The paper aims to reach out to a large base of readers, specially amongst the intellectual classes, the decision makers, the business sector, and the international community.

Nevertheless, the paper covers with interest and commitment two categories of activities, which are:

1. Economic/Business Activities:

YEMEN TIMES will provide a detailed coverage of economic and business activities in Yemen, and a synopsis of important regional and international issues in this sector. Major emphasis will be placed on trade, investments, economic laws, tenders, and market-watch aspects in price levels, consumption, interest rates, exchange rates, etc. In general, government and private-sector efforts in the country's socio-economic development process will be extensively covered.

2. Democracy and Human Rights:

YEMEN TIMES believes that the prosperity and strength of nations, if at least in the long run, will depend on democratic values and the observation of human rights. In the absence of those two basic elements in society, it is doubtful that much can be achieved. Therefore, the paper will closely follow those two issues as reflected in Yemeni life. Much has been achieved in both counts in the recent past, and much more remains to be achieved.

The paper will heavily depend on primary sources of information; i.e., interviews, polls, field surveys, and contributions and feed-back from our readers. Yet, the paper will also provide information from secondary sources, specially through the weekly summary round-up of the local press. All in all, YEMEN TIMES hopes to be informative and analytic in nature. All members of the paper promise to make a sincere effort to serve our readership, and all of us will appreciate an active participation and feed-back. Till next Wednesday, take care!

President Saleh co
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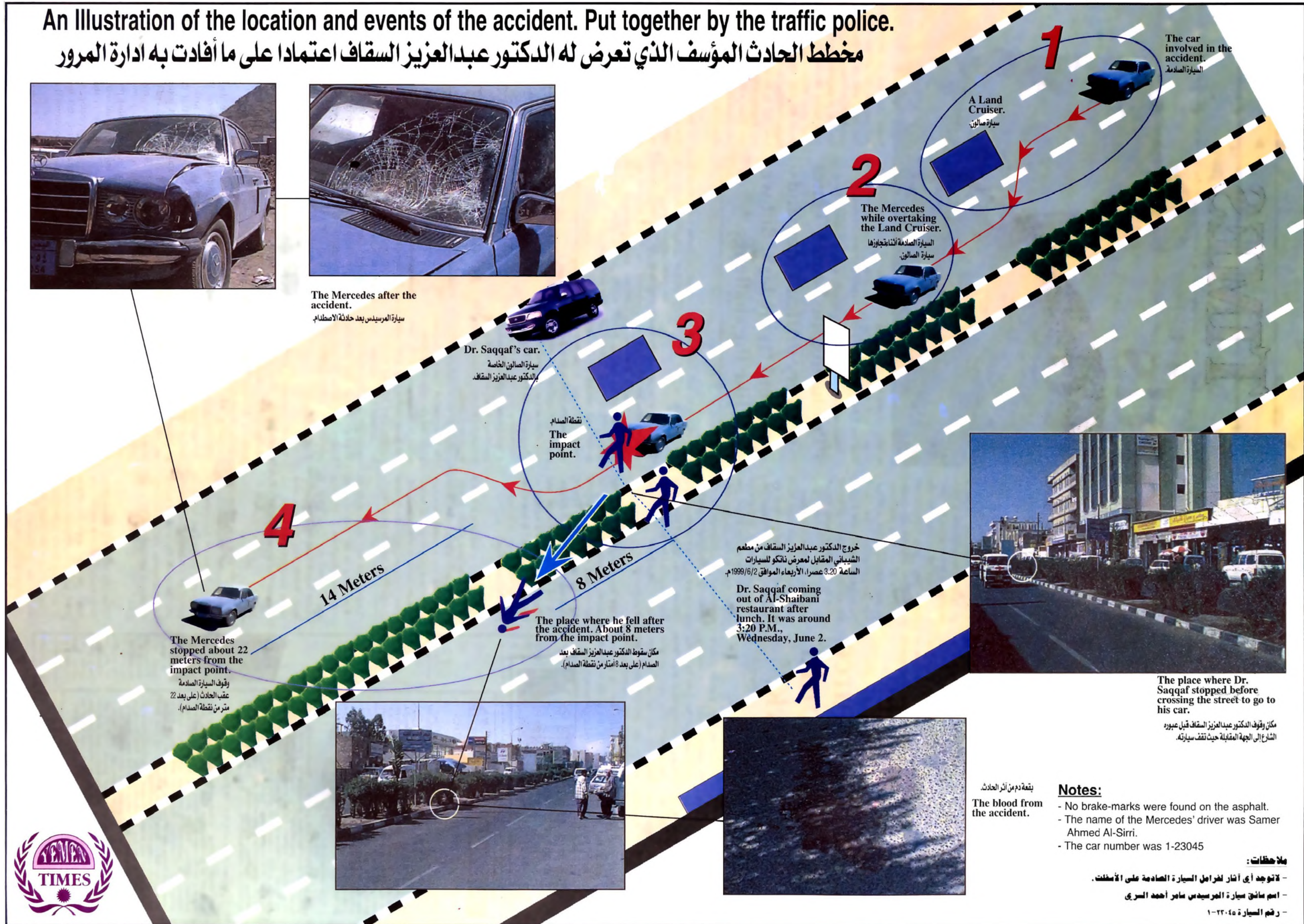
PRICE PER COPY IN YEMEN 10 Y.R.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (INCLUDES POSTAGE/DELIVERY AND HANDLING)

An Illustration of the location and events of the accident. Put together by the traffic police.

مخطط الحادث المؤسف الذي تعرض له الدكتور عبدالعزيز السقاف على ما أفادت به إدارة المرور



The Mercedes after the accident.
سيارة المرسيدس بعد حادث الاصطدام.



The place where Dr. Saqqaf stopped before crossing the street to go to his car.

مكان وقوف الدكتور عبدالعزيز السقاف قبل عبوره الشارع إلى الجهة المقابلة حيث تقف سيارته.

Notes:

- No brake-marks were found on the asphalt.
- The name of the Mercedes' driver was Samer Ahmed Al-Sirri.
- The car number was 1-23045

ملاحظات:

- لا توجد أي آثار لفرامل السيارة الصادمة على الأسفلت.
- اسم سائق سيارة المرسيدس سامر أحمد السري.
- رقم السيارة ١-٢٣٠٤٥