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Emerging Democracies Forum's First Session Starts Today

Today, the sessions of the Emerging Democracies Forum (EDF) will formally begin. At 9:45, a Welcome Address at the Presidential Palace will be given to all the participants in this event. This conference is the first of its kind, not only for Yemen but for the entire world. The forum will then continue for two more days - see the **Work Agenda in the Yemen Times EDF Edition** - and will be the focal point of the local media. On this occasion, starting from yesterday, the Yemen Times is publishing a daily edition that will be covering the events of the EDF as they happen on a daily basis. This event is very important for Yemen in many ways. First, it will show the world that Yemen is serious about adopting democratic values and becoming a fully democratic nation. Second, it will open the way for Yemen to learn from the ideas and experiences of the other participating countries. Third, if successful, the forum will encourage investors to think about return-

ing to invest in Yemen now that it has become reasonably stable, and as on the road to security. Fourth, if an intensive tourism campaign were to be launched during the conference, the tourism industry should begin to gain confidence, and gradually return to normal. Fifth, the willingness of the regime to hold and successfully support such an event would bring attention to the region and in the long run would drive developed countries to increase their support, financially, and morally to the country's development process, hence adding to the strength of the economy. However, these benefits can only be gained if the government is willing to do all it can to make this forum a success on a local and international level. Only then can it reap the fruits. This forum can signal a landmark in Yemen's modern history. Making the most of it is a difficult and extremely challenging test for the government. Can the government pass this test? We'll wait and see!

Registration Phase Now Complete

One Step Closer to the 1999 Presidential Elections

After the completion of the voter registration phase of the 1999 presidential elections, the President of the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC), Mr. Abdullah Hussein Barakat indicated that the numbers of voters was quite impressive, and expressed his satisfaction at how procedures have gone so far. The statistics given by the committee indicate that the number of voters was higher than expected. The voters were quite helpful in all procedures of the registration phase. Not only did people intend to exercise their right to vote, but they believed that they indeed can contribute to

the democratic process in the country by voting. The SEC had also indicated that it is ready to accept any kind of supervision by local, Arab, and international organizations during the elections which will take place in October of this year. On the other hand, several opposition parties have claimed that there were several violations of the law during the registration phase, such as registering imaginary names, multiple registrations for the same person, using fake documents, etc.. These claims were continuously distributed to the media by fax and letters. The

SEC has responded to this by saying that if there are any claims that such violations have occurred, the appropriate answer is to issue lawsuits against the SEC. It claims to be ready to answer all questions and prove its claims in court. When asked whether the preparations for the elections will be completed on time or not, Mr. Abdullah Barakat confirmed that the preparations are going as scheduled, and that there are no obstacles whatsoever in this regard. He says that he is optimistic that the elections will be fair, and democratic in all aspects.

Another Journalist Injured in This Dark Era

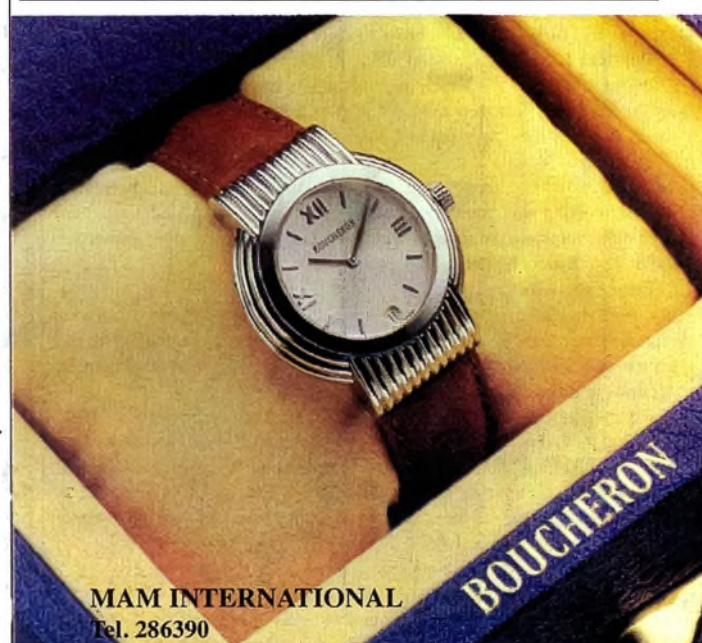
Not long after the death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Founder, in a traffic accident, another tragic accident involving a journalist has occurred. Abdullah Saad, a journalist well known for his bravery and frankness in his writings has been severely injured, and is half paralyzed. Abdullah Saad was last appointed as the Chief Editor of Al-Wahda, a government newspaper. The incident took place last Monday, while Abdullah Saad was touring Say'un along with a number of other journalists to cover President Ali Abdullah Saleh's inauguration of a number of projects in that area. Witnesses say that while Abdullah Saad was standing near an open window on the ceiling of a tall traditional building, he slipped and fell over to the ceiling of another building resulting in severe damage to his skull and upper neck. A soldier apparently tried to grab his clothes and

pull him back, but to no avail. After he was taken to the hospital, he was diagnosed as being half paralyzed. Doctors indicate that his condition is critical and needs to have a surgery as soon as possible.

Sources say that the President acted responsibly by offering the coverage of his medical expenses and tickets to fly to Jordan and have medication there. However, doctors warned that his state is not good enough to be transported at this time, and he should stay in his bed for the time being.

Before leaving his position as the Shura Opposition Newspaper to Al-Wahdah, Abdullah Saad used to write articles that were extremely critical of the state. At the Yemen Times, we pray to God to restore Saad to health, and prevent us from yet losing another patriot of free and courageous journalism in a dark era.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

This column will still be occupied by viewpoint articles written by the deceased until the issue on 12th of July, i.e., 40 days after his death.

Democracy versus Democratizing

In my many discussions with Western officials and diplomats, I could easily feel their favorable attitude towards regimes that are friendly to Western interests. That is logical. But Westerners shy away from justifying such an attitude purely on the ground of economic self-interest. They use the facade of democracy - such as elections and political pluralism - to justify their position. Again, their presentation and reasoning is plausible.



There is only one problem. Countries unfriendly to the West have learned to use the same tricks. Now they too are able to use these facades and tactics. Let me throw in some examples.

1. Political Pluralism:

Did you know that political pluralism exists in Iraq, Syria, etc.? There are at least half a dozen political parties authorized in each of them. These have offices, newspapers, etc.

2. Elections:

Did you know that Iraq, Sudan, Iran, etc., have recently held presidential and parliamentary elections? Did you know that in each case, foreign observers were invited to watch the competition among numerous candidates for each post?

3. Press Freedom:

Did you know that there are 'independent' newspapers in Syria, Algeria, Iran, etc.? Did you know that these newspapers, including the government-owned ones, run stories critical of various government officials and their decisions?

Now, my question is, why does the West view the 'democracy' of Iraq, Iran Sudan, Syria, etc., in a different light than that of Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia or Yemen? Of course, I may be pushing the point a bit too far, and I may be comparing oranges and apples. I contend, however, that these countries are in the same group, they just represent different shades of the same spectrum.

In this regard, let me make two main points:

1. I think the final arbiter of a real democracy is the ability of society to achieve a peaceful transfer of power from one ruler to another, through direct and free public elections. The rule of law and accountability are part and parcel of everyday civil society. Finally, decentralization of power, whether in terms of competing and viable power forces at the center or in terms of local influence groups in the regions, is an important indicator of a democratic society. Unless these elements - in addition to political pluralism, elections, press freedom, etc. - exist in a society, we cannot claim to have democracy.

2. There is no such thing as a democratizing regime. You either have it, or you don't. Look at East Europe and the Far East. From totalitarian dictatorships, they have moved to democracies. If democratizing is taken in the sense of learning how to improve the systems, we can use the term democratizing. In that same sense, even Britain and the USA are democratizing; i.e. they are working to perfect their democracies. I will conclude with Yemen. I feel Yemen can move ahead. To achieve that, we need a more forceful interaction with the West in helping our people secure the real conditions for democracy. Many dictators are waiting to see what happens to a regime which renounces even their facade of democracy. If one country gets away with it, then in a domino effect, they will all revert to the old ways. I hope the West won't allow this to happen, and I hope that my Yemen does not become the first country to try to renounce the facade.

Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times Founder

The Publisher
SS

UN Regional Director in Sanaa

Mr. Fawaz Fokeladeh, UN Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for the Arab States, and Representative of the UN Secretary General to the forum, arrived in Sanaa in a 5-day visit. Mr. Fawaz will participate in the Emerging Democracies Forum, accepting the invitation presented by the Yemeni Government. The Forum which will be held from the 28-30 of this month. He is representing Mr. Kofi Anan, the UN Secretary-General. Mr. Fokeladeh will be discussing some of the issues adopted by the UNDP with some of the high government officials. Mr. Fokeladeh is trying hard to help the governments and the people in these region to face the globalization challenges.

Death of a Saudi Causes Chaos in Aden

The Saudi citizen, Tal'at Hamid Saeed, 26, died last Monday in the Mansura Prison, on the 21st of July 1999. Citizens in the area accused the police forces of killing the man, although the medical examinations disagree with that accusation. Tal'at had been arrested by the police with two of his Saudi friends, Othman Hattan, Ali Al-Ga'oon, for being drunk. Based on the report of Dr. Fuad Al-Qahiri, who examined the body after it arrived at the hospital, the death incident seemed to be normal, and this is what the general Saudi Consul in Aden, Sulaiman Al-Aqeel admitted. The doctor also indicated that Tal'at was already infected with many diseases before his death. These diseases included infection in the lungs, ulcer in the stomach, and liver problems. Due to the results of the medical examination, the doctor has been ordered to re-examine the body to make sure the symptoms are correct. The deceased's body will be transported to Jeddah after all examinations are complete.

More Threats

The Chairman of the Prosecution, Salem Omer Alshaiba, and his family, have been exposed to more threats by mysterious people through the telephone. They have threatened to commit brutal deeds if he does not give up his role in checking the conditions of prisons. Men tried to kidnap his son, Amar. It is rumored that they belong to a Yemeni sheikh in Yemen. An assassination attempt against the judge failed in 1997.

YEMEN TIMES ONLINE Weekly Opinion Poll

Yemen Times Opinion Poll Question is at:
<http://www.yementimes.com/#poll>
The results only reflect the opinion of the portion of people who use the Internet to submit their votes online.

Last Week's Question:

Do you think that the Emerging Democracies Summit will be negatively affected by the absence of Hillary Clinton and Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf?

Results:

- Yes, because they are the key participants (49%)
- No, I think it will go just as fine without them (15%)
- It will only be affected by the absence of Hillary Clinton (3%)
- It will only be affected by the absence of Dr. Al-Saqqaf (28%)
- I don't know (6%)

This Week's Question:

Do you think that one of the recommendations of the Emerging Democracies Forum should be to stop state monopoly over electronic media (TV & Radio channels, etc.)?

(* Results Next Week)

Chairman of the Consultative Council Visited the Yemen Times Daily Edition Department

On Sunday, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani paid a visit to the Yemen Times in order to express support to the institution and to pay condolence to the staff for the unfortunate death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. During his visit, he toured the department where the daily edition of the Yemen Times is being prepared. Mr. Abdulghani then had a look at the seminar room, where the first NDI Press Conference was held around two weeks ago. Mr. Abdulghani was also briefed on how operations take place from the first step of getting interviews and live news, until the final steps of having the positive films printed to be taken to the printing house. Being greatly impressed by how well organized the newspaper work was, he expressed his support to have the paper continue in the steps of the deceased in the quality, credibility, and independence of the contents of the paper. He also stressed the fact that the Yemen Times has been a landmark for journalism in Yemen, and continued to be the



H.E. Abdulghani visiting the Daily Edition Department of Yemen Times

leading newspaper in regards to effectiveness and quality of its material.

After being shown the first issue of the special Emerging Democracies Forum edition of the Yemen Times, he expressed his thoughts that Yemen Times is indeed a strong institution that holds the image of Yemen high internationally and locally, and said that if it continues in the way it has, it could one day become a daily paper.

Al-Yamamah United Bank Launched

As a result of a fruitful meeting of the Yemeni-Egyptian High Committee held in Cairo from June 16-19, an agreement has been signed to establish the Yemeni-Egyptian Bank. Due to the continual cooperation between the Yemeni and Egyptian private sectors in strengthening the brotherly relations between the two countries, especially in the field of Economics and investment, Mr. Shaher Abdul Haq, representative of the Yemeni businessmen and Mr. Mohammed Abdul Fatah Al-Mahry representative of the Egyptian businessmen reached an agreement on the establishment of a Yemeni-Egyptian Bank (Al-Yamama United Bank), with assets of US \$ 100,000,000. The bank will improve the com-

mercial exchange and initiate joint investment projects.



Islamists Tribunal in Aden Continues

The Zingubar court in the city of Abyan held its second session on Wednesday, June 23, with a heavy security presence. The court was headed by the judge Mehdi Salem Hunaish, and is to look into the appeals made by Abul-Hassan and his colleagues. Abul Hassan, Abu-Hurairah, and Abdulla Al-Gunaneidy were sentenced to death, and Ahmed Atef was sentenced to 20 years in prison. All have appealed their sentences.

In this week's session, the court listened to the appeals raised by the defense, which were in turn answered by the prosecution. Then the court presented their appeal against the nine suspects who were acquitted. The lawyers will have an opportunity to listen to the defense in the session that will be held on July 4th.

Mr. Abul-Hassan Al-Mehdar repeated his call to the government to be given the right to establishing his party which is to be known as the "Aden-Abyan Islamic Army". He also asked for the presence of the governor of Abyan and the head of the central security office to explain how the negotiations with the army took place before the government interfered and the foreigners were murdered. Abul-Hassan also demanded the cancellation of actions taken by the primary court that have sentenced him and two of his colleagues to death. He has asked that this problem be solved through tribal settlement, as has been done in many similar cases. He also called the government to maintain its fairness and treat them in the same way in which it has treated the members of Yemeni Socialist Party. He said, "We are ready for reconciliation with the government, if our organization will be presented in Yemen, because we have more than 4000 members of the Mujahedinein our party, whereas some of the existing parties do not even have 50 members."

Mr. Abul-Hassan criticized the Socialist Party and said: "There are some parties that are supporting violence and criminal activities, such as the Socialist Party which started the civil war in 1994. The war killed 13,000 people, but in spite of all that, the party still exists."

There were no claims from the families of the British and Australian victims and the injured security people in the Abyan incident in 1998.

He finally added that his party has existed for the last three years, but because they were not given the right to participate as a political party, they had to carry weapons and establish a military camp.

Radwan Al-Saqqaf,
Aden Bureau Chief

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Acting Editor-in-Chief
Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Managing Editor: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
Public Relations Manager: Jamal Al-Awadhi
Aden Bureau Chief:
Ridhwan Alawi Al-Saqqaf
Phone: +967 (2) 347-057; Fax: +967 (2) 347-056
Taiz Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Telephone: +967 (4) 227-717
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz - Republic of Yemen

Website: <http://www.yementimes.com/>
Email: yementimes@y.net.ye

NDI President, Kenneth Wallock to Yemen Times:

"Yemen can learn from some of the achievements that other countries have made"

Democracy has become a much sought-after global virtue, that all the world is trying to adopt as it has proved to be the best way of governing. The Emerging Democracies Forum is a crystal clear example of this. It is a real demonstration that globalization is not taking place only in the arena of economy but also in politics.

Kenneth Wallock has been the president of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for six years and the Executive Vice President for seven years. He has also been involved in foreign affairs and politics in the USA since 1972. He has also traveled with the Institute to 15 countries. He has recently arrived in Sana'a to participate in the forum. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor met Mr. Wallock and filed the following interview with him.

Q: Regarding the forum, how do you assess the democratic progress in Yemen? Do you think that it will continue to advance?

A: I believe that the democratic process will go forward in Yemen, and in all the countries participating in this forum. However, I do not believe that it is inevitable. I think that democracy takes a lot of work. It is a very messy, untidy system. As Winston Churchill said, "It is the worst form of government, except for all other forms." Therefore, democracy requires many people to assume their responsibilities in society. It is government that has to assume a responsibility to be open and transparent, and other institutions in society must be established and built, such as an independent judiciary, and a free press. Civic organizations must organize themselves to be engaged in the political process. A multitude of political parties must also operate effectively, and compete in the marketplace of ideas, and begin to aggregate the interests of civil society. All of these things require a lot of work, so I do not believe that democracy is inevitable, but I believe that there has been a great deal of commitment on the part of Yemeni leaders, and on the part of Yemeni citizens who do not want the clock to be turned backwards. Therefore I am optimistic that the process will continue to move forward. I think that one of the purposes of this forum is not only to recognize the achievements in this country, and I believe that those achievements are considerable, but also to support continued progress in the political reform era, and continued active participation by the citizens of Yemen in the political life of their country. I think that our presence here, and the presence of the 15 or 16 other countries that are coming to Yemen is a demonstration of this solidarity and mutual support system among democrats around the world. Autocrats do not have the same support system. They operate in darkness. Democracy operates in sunshine, and they have a natural support system that they can call upon. I think that the presence of the many other countries is a demonstration of that support system, not only for Yemen, but for all the countries participating, and many more.

Q: What do you think are the obstacles to the democratic process in Yemen?

A: I am not an expert on Yemen, and I am not here to analyze all aspects of the Yemeni political

life. But don't forget that this country has gone through a significant transition process. Only a few years ago, Yemen had its first competitive open election process. It is a country that is in the process of building an independent judiciary and an independent legislature. It is a country that has only begun over the last ten years to encourage individual citizens to be engaged in the political process, forming civic organizations, and allowing women to be more engaged in the political process. What is required I think is the movement from democratic forms to something deeper, meaning that the country has had democratic elections, even though there were certain weaknesses in those elections, but has had an election that generally represents the will of the people. It has democratic institutions in society. So there are democratic forms, and now the challenge for Yemen is to deepen the democracy, to become a genuine liberal democracy. The way to do that is to strengthen the institutions in societies, and that is an ongoing process. Hopefully as time goes on, more and more people will be engaged in this process, and people will believe that it is better to participate, as it means expressing their views rather than boycotting the system. Those in authority will continue to provide the political space necessary for that competition of ideas. I think to strengthen those democratic institutions and practices is the challenge for Yemen in the future.

Q: How do you think that democracy can exist in a society where the tribal system is still in control?

A: There are tribes all over the world, there are many tribes in Africa. The "experts" once said that democracy could not take place in Confucian society, because Confucian thought is antithetical to democracy. And yet, now you find strong democracies developing in Asia. They said that Germanic cultures could not produce democracy, and yet today Germany is a very strong democracy. People claimed that Latin America, with its idea of Kaddio, or the strong man, would not allow democracy to take root, and yet democracy is firmly in place. I believe that democracy can take place in all of these societies. If you look at where Yemen is today compared to where it was a decade ago, in terms of the press, in terms of political parties, in terms of women's participation. Ultimately, if people are given a



choice, they will choose democracy over systems that deny them the ability to affect the larger political issues that affect them. And so I think that that while there may be impediments and hurdles to democracy, ultimately those impediments and hurdles can be overcome. I think that there are ways to bring in the traditional cultures that exist in these societies, in a way that complements the democratic system and does not undermine those traditional cultures. I think that there are political avenues that can be provided for those tribal leaders that can bring them into the democratic process and not isolate them from that process.

Q: Do you think that the political parties in Yemen are politically mature?

A: No. There aren't too many countries in the world where political parties are mature. All over the world there is a crisis of confidence in political parties. This is a great challenge for political par-

ties all over the world, including for traditional democracies. So no, I would not say political parties are mature in Yemen, but I would say that political parties are not mature in most states of the world. The challenge I think is for political parties to be accessible to the public, to listen to people, to provide opportunities for young people and for women to be engaged in politics, and to be engaged in the life of the political parties, because ultimately it will be the political parties that aggregate the interests of the citizens and debate public policy issues, and run for political office. They play a special role in society, they are part of the social fabric of society, and if they do not fulfill their special role, a vacuum will be created, and will be filled by a non-democratic force. Therefore, the parties have a heavy responsibility.

Q: People say that these parties are just tribal congregations, and are in a separate category from political systems.

A: Yes, but I think that over time, once a political system is in place, that those tribes can ultimately be integrated into the democratic political life of a country. It requires a lot of civic education, it requires a lot of innovative mechanisms, but I don't think that that becomes the single greatest impediment to democracy. Ultimately I think that it is the will and the aspirations of the people that will prevail if a political system is open enough to allow them to participate in that process.

These are natural tensions that exist, but ultimately how you manage those tensions becomes the challenge. As I said, I am not an expert on Yemen, but I am confident that Yemen will find its own way.

Q: In what way do you think that this forum can help the work of development in Yemen?

A: Well, first of all I think that it is important for countries that are going through a transition process to understand that they are not carrying out this transition in isolation, and that other countries have traversed the same course, and that they face similar challenges, and that they have been able to cope with the same difficulties. This is true not only for Yemen, but it is true for the other countries that are coming here. For them to be able to share their experiences, to understand that other countries have been able to make progress in certain areas, and they have established certain mechanisms with which to strengthen democratic institutions. The first thing

is for Yemen to realize that it is not alone, that other countries are facing similar challenges, and that contributes to the political reform process. People realize that they are not alone, and these problems are not unique. Secondly, I think that Yemen can learn from some of the achievements that other countries have made, some of the mechanisms and the vehicles used to strengthen those democratic values and ideals in other countries. The Yemenis can borrow from other countries and adapt it to their own environment here. Other countries can learn from Yemen's experiences as well. I think that the network that can be established here, between democrats, can help these countries strengthen their own systems. They can borrow from and learn from other systems. If you look at economic and political development around the world, people are borrowing ideas, borrowing concepts, and borrowing mechanisms and practices from each other.

Continued on Page 15

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Sanaa University Pays Final Tribute to the Late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

On Thursday morning, Jun. 24, the commemorative ceremony for the deceased Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was held by Sanaa University at the commerce and economics college, in which the deceased was serving as a teacher of economics.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of members of the consultative council, members of the Tutors committee and the rector of the University, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Makaleh. The ceremony was inaugurated with the recitation of the Quran by Mr. Saleh Al-Shallal, and followed by a word from Dr. Abdul Bari Al-Shargabi, the head of the economics department where Dr. Saqqaf worked. His main points are as follows:

paper and worked as a consultant at the consultative council. The death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is a great loss for the country, but we can do nothing now, as God has chosen to take him away."

After that, the university students, represented by Mr. Sadhek Al-Jumaie, deputy of the Yemeni Students Union, gave a speech where they welcomed all the attendees, and said "We at the Yemeni Students Union were stunned when we heard about the death of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. He has left us with huge gap and, is a great loss to the people who were fighting for human rights in the Arab world .

son can learn how to drive safely and uses this civilized means is not available.

This complex relation between this discordant parts is similar to the relation between the deceased and democracy and human rights. As he was a herald for democracy and human rights before its coming of age and in a different reality, in which democracy came as a mutation which was not understood by the society. Democracy here is just like the roads, which need the speed barriers. In the crowd of this formula and the complexity of its relationship, the late lived his life as a reformer and as a striver to put something in this crowded complexity. He has died, but has left his trace, which may make some changes in the future.

The first time I met him was at a friends house, where he gave me the first issue of Yemen Times and we have since met on many other occasions."

Mr. Mansoor Aziz Al-Zindani, Dean of the commerce and economics college said "I would like to welcome all the representatives and the family of the late. The college of commerce has lost one of its important members. The late was regarded as the message of the college to the society, and the society's message to the college. I have had some unforgettable moments with the deceased. His way of teaching was different from ours, where he always tried to implement new ways of academic teachings such as those implemented abroad. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has participated in making this ceremony successful."

The word of the deceased's friend was said by Mr. Mohammed Abdul Rahman where he said "He had lots of friends and was beloved by many people. Dear friends let me tell you something about our deceased from this place and particularly from this hall, which observed his first participation in the journey of his good deeds which can still be remembered. I would remind the students that he was the first man to implement the Islamic economy in the subject which he was teaching: He also introduced a new theory in general finance and its practices in the former southern part of Yemen. In addition, he had a very strong presence on many occasions that were held by the college and his academic background was excellent. He had studied in some of the esteemed Universities in America, Japan, and Jordan etc.

He has also represented the university in the Arab scholastic meeting for Banking administrative studies, and after that he started teaching this subject and was appointed as the head of the academy by the Academies administration after few months. He has also participated in teaching the students of higher studies

at the Jordanian University and in addition to his educational participation he always had tough stands in defending the rights of the University.

His esteemed establishment, the Yemen Times, took lots of his efforts reach this stage in which we see it today. The job of his news paper was aimed at fighting corruption, defending human rights and social establishments which made many people from

different parts of the world follow his achievements through the internet, and caused them to be informed about the social and economic situation in Yemen.

He had a very strong political presence, and his political stands were balanced, he used to think a lot about the future. He noticed that time is changing too fast, but he was faster than time and once he told me "We do not have to obey changes but we should be the ones who make the changes." In the field of human rights the deceased appointed himself as the defendant of innocent and used to follow their cases. After that he was employed at the consultative council because of his beliefs. The deceased at home was a father, brother and a friend to all of his family members and he educated his four children's very well. He was able to bring his wife from the small village of Al-Hujariah to some of the most famous universities in the United States to complete her studies.

A word from his family was said by Waleed Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. Mr. Waleed Al-Saqqaf extended his sincere thanks to Sanaa University and his appreciation to the all organizers of the event, affirming that this event could have only one meaning, which is to show the great respect held for the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. Mr. Waleed brought home his recollections of the painful day and said "It was afternoon at home. I heard mom asking me about my father, who had been expected to at home by that time. I detected a note of apprehension, as he had promised to join us at home. I called the office to ask about him, but no one was there, so I hurried to the office to find about him, in the newspaper's office some one told me that my father had an accident and that he was in the I.C.U. at Al-Thowra hospital. I think that was the most painful time ever, no one can describe or understand the shock. On my way to the hospital I was still cherishing the hope that every thing will be okay, but in the hospital I was yet to be stunned with the more shocking news my father was

dead. I had to take some time to digest this agonizing reality, for a moment I thought that a nightmare was haunting me, then I realized that I had to accept the situation and live up to it. Indeed, it was my father's word that pushed me ahead to overcome moments of pain. Often he used to remind me of my responsibility to go forward when he was gone, the idea of death was ever-present in his mind and he was preparing me to take care of my family and the "Yemen Times" when the hour of his death should arrive."

"Since his early childhood, my father's life story was very hard and difficult, as he hailed from a poor family. This filled him with a spirit of challenging; struggling and perseverance. When he was a young student, he used to work as a restaurant attendant in the afternoon while studying in the morning. However, he finished his high school with straight "A"s. So we can say with complete truth that Dr. Abdulaziz was a true model of a self made man. He went along with education to the highest levels, he was admitted to the best colleges in the world, and when he came back he tried to pay his country back. He was a brilliant educator,

a bold fighter and at the time when he established the Yemen Times, he set himself on a mission : To fight corruption and to comfort the afflicted. Our only consolation is the great heritage he left behind, which we will commit our selves to preserving. The closing words were said by the universities rector, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Makaleh, in which he welcomed those present, and said "How difficult it is for all of us to believe that the late has died. If his family has lost one of its dearest sons; so the university of Sanaa has lost on of its best and most successful scientific tutors. He was a dearest brother and a courageous teacher, and by his sudden leaving we have lost one of our greatest researchers, whose ability to adapt to any new situations is well known by everyone. The deceased was always a humble and an optimistic person. He was also an example of forgiveness and patience. I knew the deceased very well, and the evidence of his greatness is seen in the generation which he has taught.

Finally, the university awarded Mr. Waleed Al-Saqqaf with the shield.

By: Yasser M. Ahmed



Sana'a University Rector giving his condolences to Waleed Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

"First of all, I would like to welcome all the attendants, the rectors of the University, members of the consultative council and the members of the tutors committee for the department of economics, which the deceased was a part of. I did not want to stand here to say a word for the economic department in praising the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. However, my friendship with the deceased has lasted for the past thirty years, from our days in secondary school in 1969 in Taiz. After completing the secondary education in 1971, we unfortunately had to divide because of our field of studies. We met together again when the deceased started teaching in the university's economics department after getting his Ph.D. The Doctor's personality was totally different from the rest of the people in the university .

The presence of mind, generosity, pleasant social relations and ambition were noticed in his features by his friends and family, in addition to his love and honesty, his dedication to his work as a teacher and his patriotism for his country. He has worked in the television during his studies as a TV English language broadcaster. He established the esteemed "Yemen Times" news

We have seen his intelligence through his distinguished Academic background. He was an educated intelligent model for us, and we the new generation have to learn from his contribution to this society.

The deceased was a courageous man with persistence, and he struggled to achieve all that has been achieved. Finally, I would like to thank all the people who have responded for the inauguration of this commemorative ceremony."

The word from the members of the Tutor's committee was presented by Mr. Abdalla Al-Makaleh, who welcomed the presence of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Makaleh, and the family of the deceased represented by the Engineer Waleed Al-Saqqaf. He said:

"Why do we dig the constructed roads and make speed breakers on them, has any one of you asked this question to himself? -Why do we transform the constructed roads to asphalt and make the obstacles on it to prevent the car accidents?

The answer is as follows

Because the components of the formula, Human Being-Car-Road has not been perfected yet. Up until now, the civilizations compliance through which a per-



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Computer Science	(2-12)
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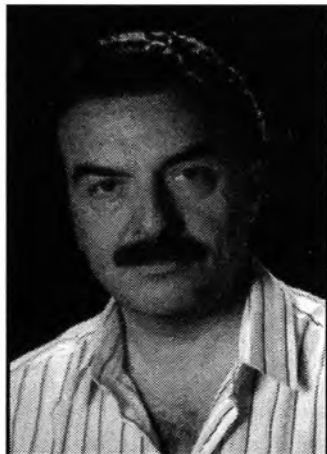


Applicants must have an MA, MSc or above from a recognized university in the areas of their specialty, a minimum of 5 years experience and must be fluent in English. All Applications should be mailed or faxed to the Principal.

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Will GATS be Good for the Region?



Riad al Khouri
Columnist

services are often provided by either public monopolies or legal cartels, in many cases quite inefficiently. Private management of ports is still rare in the Arab world, with Aden in Yemen being a notable exception. As for ownership of such facilities, the Omani trans-shipment center of Salala is the only major example of a port in the region that is not owned by the state.

The market and regulatory structures that govern maritime transport services can negatively affect the costs and quality of shipping. Liberalizing this sector by allowing more private sector activity could improve the efficiency of maritime shipping services and thus have a positive impact on an economy as a whole in terms of ability to compete on world markets.

This is where the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) comes in. GATS has extended internationally agreed upon rules into a large and rapidly growing area

of international trade, and also created a commitment to liberalize commerce in services.

GATS includes practically all measures taken by WTO members that affect trade in services. The agreement has created two types of disciplines. The most important of the first type is the Most Favored Nation (MFN) treatment, which prohibits discrimination between trading partners, and transparency, which requires each WTO member to publish promptly all relevant laws and regulations that apply to a particular sector. The second type arises from specific commitments undertaken by individual members to provide market access (i.e. not to impose certain entry restrictions on foreign services and service suppliers), and national treatment (not to discriminate between national and foreign services or service suppliers). Binding commitments made under GATS to provide market access to foreign investors and offer them national treatment will help to create a transparent

and secure regime for them.

In maritime transport, a more liberal regulatory framework could play a significant role in solving the problems caused by inadequate port and auxiliary services in many countries of the region. Liberalizing maritime transport had been a central concern of the negotiations that finally led to the WTO being set up. However, only a few countries were willing to offer commitments, most with limitations, in this sector. To get better results, it was decided to extend maritime transport negotiations until mid-1996. These were to be comprehensive, aiming at commitments in international shipping and auxiliary services, and access to and use of port facilities. Unfortunately, the WTO's members again could not achieve a successful conclusion even over the longer period. It was decided therefore to suspend talks and resume them only with the next round of comprehensive services negotiations, during 2000.

So, even though maritime transport is an integral part of GATS, it is for the moment not subject to its full disciplines. First, the

application of the MFN obligation to this sector has been temporarily suspended. Second, since it has not yet been possible to reach a negotiated agreement on the level of specific commitments that members are willing to make, the provision of market access and national treatment are limited to those cases which some members have made unilaterally.

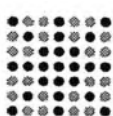
Sea shipping is a relatively open sector in the Middle East. However, barriers exist in the case of auxiliary and port services, though the good news is that the public sector is gradually retreating and more competition is being introduced. In the increasingly important area of multimodal transport (whereby goods pass from one country to another by various methods in addition to shipping by sea), even though foreign firms usually receive non-discriminatory access to continuing land transport, they frequently encounter difficulties in establishing their own inland operations. This can put them at a disadvantage in situations where integration provides overall benefits.

There are reasons to be opti-

mistic that, in the GATS shipping negotiations due to restart in a few months, sufficient liberalization commitments will be forthcoming to achieve a successful outcome. First, in the next round of comprehensive service talks, it may be possible to break the stalemate in maritime transport by exploiting intersectoral negotiating trade-offs. In other words, a country might offer concessions in maritime transport in exchange for something agreed upon by another country in a totally different sector. Second, it may be easier to reach commitments in the important multimodal area when all types of transport are being negotiated rather than the maritime one alone.

Anyway, although much more needs to be done, liberalization of this sector is becoming a priority for more countries in the region. Restrictions on maritime trade impose a significant expense on the whole economy, and an agreement in this sector in the GATS framework will be a boon to world trade. This should be especially true for our region, which remains a bastion of over-regulation in shipping.

The British Council



The British Council in Sana'a has the following vacancy

Due to departure of the present incumbent, the British Council in Sana'a will soon have a vacancy for Yemeni national to fill the post of

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OFFICER

The British Council provides services designed to contribute to the development of Yemen.

These services are concentrated in the (current) development priority areas of the British Council in Yemen: education, with an emphasis on basic education, primary health care, and good government. In all its activities, the British Council endeavours to promote equality (for women, for minorities). The development Services Officer assists in managing scholarships, academic visits and projects, under direct supervision by the manager Development Services.

This post includes the following activities :

- ❑ advising applicants for scholarships, assisting in selection of candidates, handling administration of candidates, briefing and debriefing;
- ❑ liaising with UK British Council offices and British and other Universities on scholarships and visits;
- ❑ assisting in selection of projects for the various programmes managed by the British Council;
- ❑ assisting in project management, liaising with counterparts, making field visits, interpreting and translating.

* In order to fulfill these duties effectively, the ideal candidate should have :

- ❑ fluent spoken & written English and Arabic, and translation skills,
- ❑ excellent communication and people skills,
- ❑ motivation and initiative,
- ❑ an organised approach to work and respect for deadlines and time constraints,
- ❑ computer literacy and office experience,
- ❑ a university degree or equivalent.

Applicants must apply by July 10th 1999

Letters of application and accompanying CVs. with copies of qualifications, to :

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The United States Information Agency (USIS), AMIDEAST, and The Fulbright Alumni Association of Yemen (FAAY) announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for Yemenis wishing to study and do research in the United States. Scholarships are as follows:

* The Fulbright Program:

1. Masters Degree:

There are scholarships for a master's degree in the US. in all fields except medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and engineering. Applicants must have:

- International TOEFL score of at least 550.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with an excellent academic record.

For more information and application forms, please contact the AMIDEAST office, no. 66, Algiers Street, Sanaa. Telephone # (206-222). **Deadline: August 1, 1999.**

2. Post Doctoral Research:

The requirements for this program are as follows:

- The applicant must be a Ph.D. holder and wish to conduct further research in his/her field.
- A precise and detailed research project proposal.

For more information and application forms, please contact USIS at the American Embassy. Telephone # (238-819/20). **Deadline: August 1, 1999.**

* The Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program:

This is a one year fellowship program for professionals in applied fields that combines academic training in an American university (non degree program) and field experience.

Requirements are:

- International TOEFL score of at least 600.
- Applicants must have 5 years of work experience in public service fields such as economy, journalism, banking & finance, public health policy, natural resources management, public policy, human resources, education planning, and urban planning.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with an excellent academic record.

For more information and application forms, please contact USIS at the American Embassy. Telephone # (238-819/20). **Deadline: August 1, 1999.**

Yemenis, Wake Up to The Wonders of India!

India is actually a country made up of many different cultures and different religions. This mixture makes it an attractive tourist destination for many people.

Mr. Gour Kanjilal is the regional Director of the government of India's Dubai-based Tourist office. He is responsible for promoting tourism to India in 14 countries in the gulf and Middle East and 12 countries in Africa. As tourism has become one of the most important industries in the modern age, he is trying to send as many people from these countries to India as he can.

The relationship between India and Yemen is very strong, and we witness further development every day.

Mr. Kanjilal recently paid a short visit to Yemen to tell people in Yemen about the touristic attraction of India, calling people in Yemen to visit India and enjoy its interests. Mohammed Bin Sallam and Mohammed Hatem AL-Qadhi met him and filed the following interview with him. Excerpts:

Q: What are the goals of your visit to Yemen?

A: Our main purpose is to invite our Yemeni national friends and promote them to visit India because if they are thinking of travelling, India would offer them very good opportunities for spending holidays. We would also like to inform them that India and Yemen have a very old cultural relationship; we are also proud of our ancient cultural heritage, like many peoples here. I think both countries know each other very well through the people who come for studies and medical treatment. Many people have the matrimonial connection; they are married to Indian people, or they have commercial ties with India. There are lots of things in common between us. So this is why we are here to promote and invite people to visit India.

Q: Do you think that Yemeni visitors are beneficial to India? Do you think this number can be increased?

A: Yes, already last year we had around 10,000 Yemeni nationals who came to India. These are only the Yemeni nationals, in addition to the Yemenis of Indian origin. The total number of visitors of both Yemenis and NRI's is around 16,000 tourists. This thing is very good for us. I think this number could easily be increased, because India is big and can not be seen in one visit; even if you went there 20 times, you could not see India totally. So once you go to India you'd like to visit it again and again. Twenty-thirty thousand visitors would be a very easy thing to get from here.

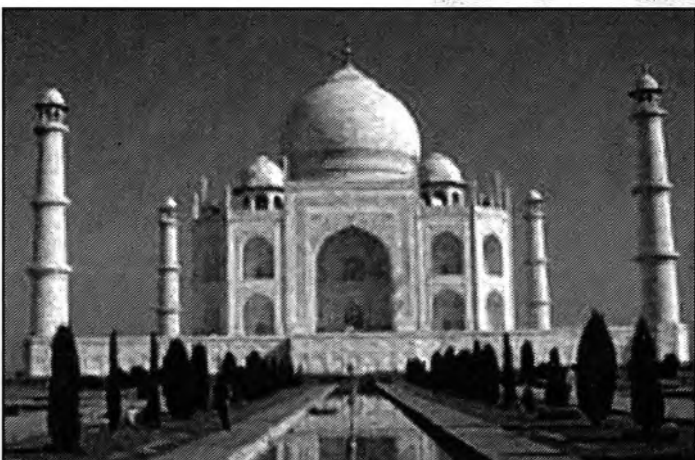
Q: What are the facilities that

are provided to the Yemeni Visitors?

A: India is such a vast country what ever visitors would like to have they can get. We have also various facilities such as the upper market, and the lower budget market where everything could be offered. That is why we are here; to see what people may need so that we could request our tour operators and our governments to provide them with these facilities. Other kind of facilities that are available are the quota for the low budget Yemeni youths; we have got a youth hostel, and we also have a budget accommodation called the Yatri Nivash. They cost around US \$20-25 per day, then you have the one and two star hotels within US \$ 30-50. Those who want to go for higher budgets they can get hotel rooms from US \$ 50-100. If they want to travel by train we have a rail pass which can valid from one day up to 150 days; you can purchase a rail pass and move around India. If people want to go to the moun-



we have already placed some of our advertisements. We would like to put it in your paper also, so that people can learn more about India. We have a CD-Rom that possesses all of the information about India. This CD-Rom will be given to all the tour operators. These were our first steps to explore this market and by having interaction, and an educational tour, and by visiting media members and organizing an Indian evening we will try to build up our presence here. Our job here is to familiarize people



Taj Mahal, One of the Beauties of India

tains, there are various mountains. We also have a large variety of food.

Q: What means would attract more Yemeni tourists to India?

A: This is what we want to know from the people. We want to know what they want, like in other parts Arab world they like to go and visit the Himalayas, other people would go for a medical or herbal treatment, business, or studying. Once we know what people want, we can prepare every thing.

Q: Will you visit some other Yemeni cities for the same purpose?

A: No, for now we will get enough to do in Sanaa. But we have future plans to come and visit other cities such as Aden and other parts of the country. My visit actually is to allow me to see the areas which I will be in charge of.

Q: Do you think that this festival you are holding at Taj Sheba is enough to expose India and attract the Yemeni people, or will you have to launch a media campaign in Yemen?

A: We would like to release our advertisements in the media and

with our vast culture.

Q: What are your impressions of the old city of Sanaa?

A: During my visit to the gulf countries I thought that Arabs were lazy and did not work, but when I visited the old city of Sanaa, I found it a very lively culture. I saw people working here and there. They are also proud of their culture. It is very much similar to my country, where there are lots of activities in the market. People are busy in their work, I was also very much impressed by the rock palace, which date backs 1000 years.

Q: The relationship between Yemen and India is deeply rooted in history, so have you noticed any kind common features between Indians and Yemenis?

A: There isn't a vast difference between our peoples. They are very helpful, hospitable and many people here look like Indians. If they walk in India, people would not know at all that they are Yemenis. Even the Yemeni culture is similar to ours such as the mixed family, food, the jewelry; every thing is in common. I went to the jewelry shop and found that we have similar jewelry designs in India.

Meetings of Arab Tourism Executive Committee

On Saturday June 19th, the third round meetings of Arab Tourism Executive Committee were kicked off here in Sanaa with the participation of Arab delegates representing a good number of Arab countries. The inauguration session started with a word delivered by his Excellency Mr.



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani, Qatar

Abdul-Rahman Al-Suhaibani, the Arab League Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs in which he shed light on the meanings of having this meeting held in Sanaa.

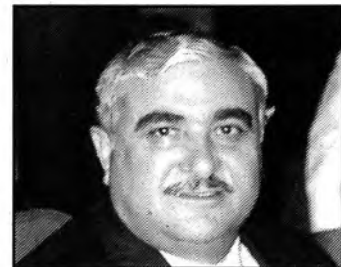
The Syrian Minister of Tourism, Dr. Danho Daood, Chairman of the first round for the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism spoke to the conference and

highlighted the importance of this meeting to both private and public sectors. Dr. Danho invited every one to take part in the processes of enhancing, promoting and law-making of tourist issues pointing out that such meetings could be very useful as they bring Arab tourist officials and private entrepreneurs together to constructively discuss ways of further improving tourism in the Arab World. He also briefed the attendants on the growing improvement in Arab tourism referring in this regard to the increase in numbers of tourists coming to Arab countries which jumped in one year to 6.17% in 1998 compared to 1997. As a result, revenues have also increased in 1998 and recorded a growth rate of 7.25 % compared to 1997. The Arab World's share of the world basket in tourism rose to 2.9% in 1998 compared to 2.7% in 1997.

The Syrian Minister concluded his word by reiterating the unique assets for tourism among the Arabs who have a lot in common either in cultural and geo-

graphical or in economic and social arenas. He expressed his confidence that the term of the Third Round Chaired by Mr. Abdulmalek Mansour, Minister of Culture and Tourism will record more progress and steps on

the way of achieving the Arab Ministerial Council's objectives. Minister of Culture and Tourism Mr. Mansour, chairman of the Third Round said a word in which he welcomed Yemen's guests to this conference and extended his thanks to the former chairmanship. He referred to the sad incidents of last year affirming that such acts were alien in our society and had no relation whatever to the ethics, manners



Danho Daood, Syria

and culture of the Yemeni society, reassuring the attendants of successful efforts of the state in doing away with this phenomenon.

He calls on the Arabs to encourage tourism among their countries by providing the necessary incentives of easy movement and transportation.

The conference's agenda was approved during this opening session.

By: Khairiah Al-Shabibi,
Yemen Times



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Enjoy your times in Aden...



Yemeni Environment Jeopardized

By: Fatma Abed Awadh

Maybe there isn't much we can do about the environment on our own, but if we work together and each do a little, we can make a change.

Let us look around us and see if we are really aware of our environment

Garbage:

Everywhere you go you'll see piles of garbage. It's usually not disposed of properly by the public. It's thrown anywhere, out of windows, cars, on the streets etc. This generates flies, bad odors

and harmful bacteria. Polythene bags fly everywhere and are bad for the soil. Broken bottles, empty cans, even syringes with their used needles lie in the streets.

Sewage:

Nearly every street in our cities and towns has sewage over-flowing onto the main roads and the surrounding areas. Acids are emanated into the air. Detergents and cleaning agents are the largest group of products containing chemical substance, and they are allowed to flow into the streets after we use them. There




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should be a proper drainage system, and ways of disposing this waste.

Seasonal Floods from Rain:

The Government should try to build covered trenches with non-porous stones to trap the water for irrigation. A good example is neighboring Oman, where they save much rain water throughout the year for irrigation and other uses in this way.

Pesticides and Fertilizers:

The Ministry of Agriculture should check the types of pesticides and fertilizers entering Yemen, because our farmers will buy whatever they find in the market that is cheap. Farmers should be alerted about how to use these dangerous chemicals with care, and what quantity to use. Otherwise, misuse of pesticides and fertilizers can cause disasters for everyone. The runoff of Pesticides residue from farmlands with rain or irrigation can damage drinking water and the soil.

Cars and disposing of used oil from cars:

Many cars are really too old to be on the roads anymore. Many buses, trucks and construction machines use diesel and emanate poisonous gases which we inhale from the air. Cars cause a lot of noise, emit nitric oxides (responsible for acid rain) and other toxic gases which are responsible for polluting the air. Many of us can see the used oil from cars near most Petrol stations and Garages, spilled out onto the ground. This should be properly disposed and not poured anywhere on the ground, as it spoils the ground water and soil. Volatile organic compounds (VOC) are poisonous and are responsible for the "diesel" smell. Reducing the trucks that use diesel, especially where there

are large population centers, would be good.

Waste Disposal from Factories and Industries:

Industries should implement cleaner technologies and environmental management. It would be nice to have an Environmental Protection Agency that could force Law-breakers to pay a fine for not disposing of their waste properly.

Wild Cats and Dogs

There are so many wild cats and dogs these days, especially in Sana'a. Many of us cannot sleep peacefully because of their noise. The Municipality should eradicate as many of them as possible, as they can be a great source of diseases such as rabies from the dogs and skin diseases from the cats, as they feed on garbage and roam wildly.

Planting of Trees:

Trees, especially in our city Sana'a are "the Lungs of Society" I feel bad when people cut down beautiful trees just for the sake of cutting them down. We should try to plant more trees, as they are the only source of increasing oxygen in Sana'a and should be encouraged all over the country. Many young people keep dreaming of when we will up-root the Qat shrubs and plant coffee trees instead. This would help in bringing the much needed hard currency and be a way to rid our society of this evil plant.

Overall cleanliness:

Our local television should try to address the public on the dangers of throwing garbage in the wrong places. I keep thinking what would happen to a child or anyone who walks on a used syringe needle if its contaminated with HIV blood or Hepatitis. Deadly diseases could be contacted by accident this way.

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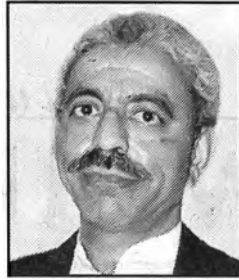
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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi



Democracy:

Human Rights, Empowerment and an Active Civil Society

The word democracy has been found in political discourse for over 2,500 years. Even in Yemen, as the Quran tells us, democracy or consultation was practiced by the Sabeen monarchy, as the kings and queens who ruled over Saba, one of the ancient kingdoms of Yemen, relied on consultation with the erstwhile nobility and social dignitaries of the time before rendering any decisions on important matters of policy or international relations.

Notwithstanding the early historical roots of democracy, it is important to point out that it was Islam and the mission of the Prophet Mohammed, Peace of Allah be upon Him, who introduced the concept that religion and democratic thought go hand in hand, and who insisted that human beings are endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, property and political activism. The early days of the

Islamic state, as organized and run by Mohammed (P), in Medina in 622 AD, followed by the first four caliphs, Abu Bakr, Omer, Uthman and Ali, God bless their souls, were clear and undeniable manifestations of the Islamic credo that government must rely on the will and satisfaction of the governed and the consciousness that God is holding those responsible for public affairs into account. Moreover, the people themselves must insure that their governments are run within clear guidelines that uphold the rights of all the people, who have pledged their allegiance to that government, as long as those rights are safeguarded and justice is meted out in keeping with the equitable laws of Islam. While such important conceptualizations have become corrupted by the subsequent regimes that followed the 4 administrations of the Prophet Mohammed's (P)

disciples, it is nevertheless safe to assume that they had a profound influence in helping the development of democratic government that was to later ensue in the West, as many a western chronicler has admitted, without fail.

In the West democratic practices have evolved in one of two ways, either gradually and somewhat peacefully, over the ages, as in the case of England, or in abrupt violent revolts heralded by nurtured intellectual activity combined with mass discontent among the population, as in the case of the French Revolution. The American Revolution has become the classic success story for that institution of democracy and rule of law by equity, with built-in mechanisms to adjust to meet greater political awareness among the citizenry and to adapt to the increasing desire for the removal of the authoritarian and the often inefficient functioning

of government bureaucracy.

By no means do all the modern democratic governments fall into one mold that gives them a uniform appearance or framework, but there are no doubt important converging aspects that characterize the more developed of these governments:

1) Human and Civil Rights: The statutes of democratic societies clearly spell out the rights and freedoms that the citizens are unquestionably entitled to, which cannot be subjected to any violations or transgressions, for whatever reason – including “national security”, and have no room for any personal narrow-minded interpretations. These rights and freedoms are the pillars on which democratic governments stand. The safeguarding of these rights is, in fact, the initial primary task of government and the Courts of Law in democratic societies. They take great pains, in all the cases brought to them, whether criminal or civil (and even cases of national security), to first insure that, in these cases, none of the personal rights and freedoms have been violated in any way, shape or form. Sometimes this can even be to the detriment of the arrival at a decisive ruling in the case itself. If a person's rights have been violated, the case will be thrown out, whatever the evidence against them.

2) Empowerment: This entails a more widespread active participation in decision making in government and control over the resources of the country. This means accountability and transparency in the organization, regulation and control of the various institutions of government and the break-up of government into clear distinct lines of authority, with built in checks and balances that prevent any likelihood that any institution will prevail over and above law, reason and public interest. It means the institution of government at different geographical and population levels with well-defined powers and jurisdictions and with elected officials holding the critical positions of oversight and policy directions at the different administrative government levels. This also necessitates the decentralization of government, whereby the Central Government is left to oversee national policy, strategic outlooks and the protection of national sovereignty. It also implies that there will be more autonomy to local and regional government institutions which are to be organized along the same framework as the Central Government, in terms of the institutions that make up such local authorities, and the designation of its senior officials through free and open elections, and more importantly in terms of being run along the same rules for transparency and accountability, that the Central Government is expected to abide by. These local and regional authorities will be the government frameworks that will engage in the public management of the day to day affairs of their geographical and population domains and the role of the Central Government would be confined here to only assuring the equitable distribution of national resources to all the regions and local authorities and that access to such resources is facilitated, without regard to political considerations.

3) An Active Civil Society: It has been proven over the years, that no matter what form Government takes, it can never be expected to manage the state of affairs of a nation all by itself. Moreover, governments, by their highly politicized nature, cannot be relied on to insure the equitable distribution of national, regional and local resources, and that access to national, regional and local assets and services is open to all in a fair and balanced manner. But democratic societies have been able to overcome this deficiency of government by allowing the population to assemble and organize in membership and non-membership non-profit associations and organizations that are dedicated to a wide range of causes and beliefs, which can be humanitarian, social or the advocacy of certain important public issues, which government action has been either weak or unsuccessful in addressing. The significance of civil society in democratic societies can never be over emphasized, and the role of non-governmental organizations in these societies has been an important source for the more

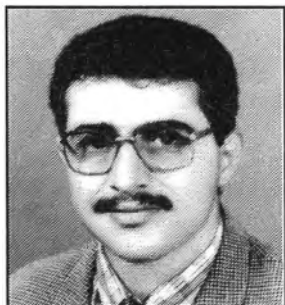
democratic stature that these societies have continued to evolve into.

From the preceding discussion, the parameters by which “emerging democracies” are expected to gauge their true democratic development and the progress towards real, effective democratic government, are defined, and the need then comes for setting the appropriate criteria for each parameter and the minimum standards for assessment thereof. In the Yemeni situation, regrettably, we are still too far from meeting many of the international standards in most of the criteria within these parameters, for us to be able to say that we have truly embarked on the path towards true democratization. On human rights, we are not yet at the level where we find such human rights either properly instituted by statute or by application of those rights that may have been a part of the statutory foundations that do exist. In government structure, we still find the central government involved in all aspects of statecraft and the management of all the national resources and accessibility to government services and facilities. Moreover, the insistence of the central authorities to maintain all important decision making under the tight control of a largely inefficient hierarchical bureaucracy, with the decision making authority still mainly at the top, has hindered any efforts towards empowerment and more active participation of the people involved, thus the highly entrenched corruption and mismanagement can be found at all levels. On the other hand, the lack of transparency and accountability only tends to make the situation more difficult to correct and lessens the hope for any chance of greater empowerment, as the vested interests that are entrenched in government find the status quo more appealing for nurturing their narrow interests and imposing their political will.

In the case of civil society, there is still no law that regulates and encourages the development of a viable and effective non-government sector, although much work and money have gone into the preparation of such a law.

It is clear that Yemen needs to fully comprehend that democracy is not just a slogan or rhetoric that has minor advantages. Democracy must be seen, felt and appreciated by the very people who live under a democratic system. The Yemeni people, themselves – as is the case in many of the emerging democracies of the world – need to be cultured into concepts of democratic thinking. They must realize that the government should not be expected to come out with the democratic framework in its highest form of development. Unfortunately, neither the government, nor the existing political parties and non-government organizations have displayed any real efforts towards enhancing political culture and democratic conceptualization among the people of the country.

When Security Mess Predominates



By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor,
Yemen Times

It is self-evident that a sense of security is of paramount significance, and is required for the state of stability in the life of the people of any society. Any development

or progress in the arena of life follows such a condition. Otherwise, nothing can be achieved if people live under a constant threat of fear and terrorism. In other words, development in different aspects of life is stimulated by the availability of an environment of security. In fact, it is one of the essentials any government has to introduce into the life of its citizens. When people feel secure, life sets to prosperity and welfare of the public. Security can have various aspects and facets. People in Yemen don't feel secure. They are afraid of the future of their country. The fluctuating and unstable situation of the Yemeni riyal creates ripples in their minds and make them see no silver lining in the sky. This makes our businessmen feel unsure of the economic situation which doesn't produce any incentive for them to invest their money, which can be jeopardized at any time. Hence, economic stability is very important for any concrete and positive progress to take place.

Another point is that homicide incidents are reportedly increasing. Murders have become so common. When the government control over the situation breaks loose, chaos and disorder dominates and hence the law of the jungle prevails. Everyday we hear of tribal wars occurring everywhere; in Shabwa, Amran, Marib, etc. More often we hear of personal murders in Sanaa. The last one happened last week on Hadda street due to nothing but some kind of misunderstanding. The murderer accused the murdered of flirting a girl. The murdered shrugged his shoulders and ignored him. Then, hell broke loose; the murderer took off his jambia and inserted it into the

heart of his 'enemy'. How horrible!

People, maybe because of the endurable economic hardships, have become so intolerant. Any kind of misunderstanding or difference can get their nerves and make them murder or do any other evils.

A misunderstanding between people of two villages in Sabir in Taiz over a water well could bring havoc to the whole region, where the military forces were embroiled into the turmoil and different sorts of weapons were used. Sometimes, it is the security apparatus that help exacerbate the situation because the more the situation worsens, the more it becomes beneficial to them. What nonsense! The security people are supposed to provide protection to the rank and file. They should be always on the fence and never lean to the side of the influential and crooked bureaucrats; they should stand by law and order. But when this is not true, people no longer feel sure of the ability of the government to implement its laws. Our plight here in Yemen is not the non-existence of laws but the absence of their enforcement in reality. Laws should be applied to all people regardless of their influence in the society. The soul of democracy is that people should be treated equally by law. Even the VIPs and influential figures are not spared the security mess. We still remember what the son of the parliamentarian Hamoud Khalid Al-Sofi did when his son was kidnapped from his school in Sanaa some months ago. That was because his brother Dr. Nabil made a surgical operation on a child who later on died, and the doctor is to blame, and the son of his brother is to be victimized. What a pointless excuse!

It is quite natural that the people have the right to feel socially, economically, politically, and psychologically secure at their home. Otherwise, they will search for a better place outside their home.

And this is actually what is happening in Yemen. Everybody is looking out for a visa to get to any country. To get a visa has become a priority for almost everybody. This is why we find even almseekers praying for you that you will get a visa to America or everywhere else so that you dispense with some money to

him/her. In the past, the main concern of anyone was to get married and have a career which means a sense of security and certainty of what is to come. But now everybody is haunted by the idea going abroad.

You just get into a dabbab or minibus and listen to the commoners speech. They are grudgingly upset and disturbed by the situation, for life has become an abyss of hell for them. This sense of insecurity and instability is of alarming dimensions. The absence of the government control over the situation makes people lose their confidence in it and makes it no longer able to impose its power. When influential figures, tribesmen, shiekhs, crooked officials and their sons break the law with no checks, it means that we are in a jungle. Commoners sometimes feel afraid to complain against their influential figures, even through newspapers, due to the harassment they might receive. It so happened to me once when I was as the Yemen Times Taiz Office Editor, that some people wanted me to report their problems with a parliamentarian in the paper. I was trying to collect detailed information about the problem. To my surprise, they came to the office of the paper and appealed to me not to get anything about the published problem. They were afraid of the counter attack owing to the publication of their problem. In this sense of insecurity, people have no choice but to take law into their hands, which means more reported homicides and killings, leading to more economic hurdles and pitfalls. A government which is not able to ensure it people this sense of security is no longer legitimate to govern them.

However, it is still in the hands of the government to introduce full application of law and order which accordingly will yield full existence of security. It is this way can we have a modern democratic nation. Otherwise, the motto of democracy will remain a word that doesn't match reality. This is because democratic nations are those which fully respect law and order, the pillars of any civilized society. We have to remember that no law, no democracy and no application of law, means no development. Are we aware of the result of this simple formula? I wish so!

5 in a Series

More Wonders from a Beautiful City

The Forts and Walls of Zabid

The historical city of Zabid, whose name was associated with the civilization of the Yemeni people in ancient times, is still great. This city became famous for its culture, as well as for being a center of religious knowledge. It also had many great buildings, particularly the forts and walls, and these still survive today. Zabid appeared in the ages of the petty states. It first became

were built on top of the old cities, and the old slowly disappeared beneath the new. The Yemeni civilization was based on the Tihama's historical roots. This area had a great heritage, and many monuments that reflect the great civilization of the Yemeni people have been found. It has become a source of interest to many researchers around the world, because of its distinct artistic styles and unique

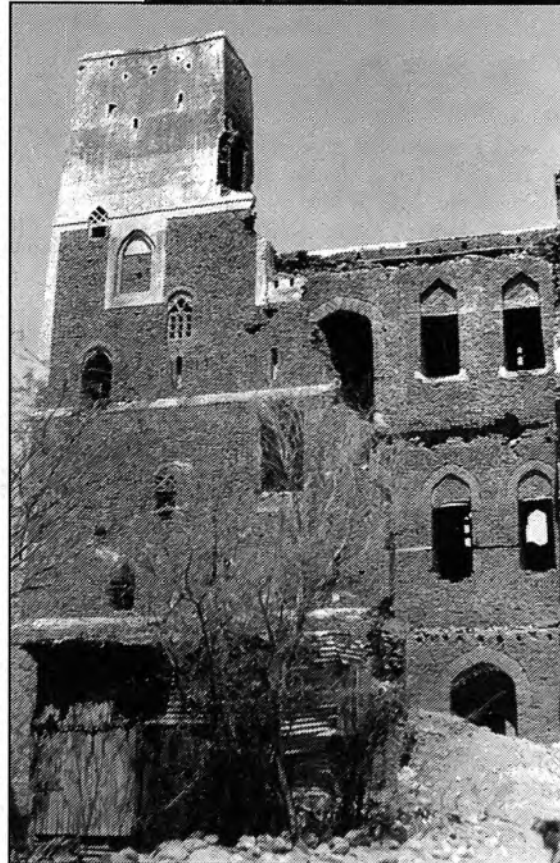
forts and palaces which were guarded against conquering armies by the walls surrounding the city on every side. The walls had four main doors to allow people to go in and out.

The first door was known as Al-Tabariq, and was located in the eastern part of the wall. It leads to Al-Hems and Al-Kariba town and the eastern valley of Zabid. The second door was known as Gulaifiqah, located in the western part of the wall. It faces towards the valley of Zabid and the eastern town of Al-Tahitah.

The third door is known as Siham, and it opens out onto the main marketplace of Zabid, and towards the Siham valley.

The fourth door was known as Al-Kartab. This door leads to the southern part of the Zabid valley, which was used as a means of communication between the two great cities of Zabid and Al-Khartab, a famous city that is located in the western part of Al-Garahi. The city of Al-Khartab was the second greatest city of the time, after Zabid, and was a center of study for around 400 Islamic scientists at that time.

Unfortunately, during the continuous tribal wars going on at that time, the Dawaser tribe attacked the city and completely destroyed it. This was after the death of Sheikh Mehdi, bin



famous city in the area, many famous scientific and religious leaders came from there. The famous author, Sheikh Abdul-Latif Al Shargi, was born in that city. Nothing remains of the city now, except for the fort, which was called Al-Katla. This fort was made up of four floors; it was built of red clay bricks and its roofs were made from the best quality of wood, cut from trees known as Al-Iliab, which were abundant in Tihama at that time. The thing that makes these trees different is their strength and high resistance to woodworms. In spite of the destruction of the northern part of the fort long ago, this strong wood still remains, almost unaffected by

time. Because of the strength of this fort, it was a key strategic center

for the Ottomans. It was the meeting place of the ruling government and the residence of the Ottoman governor.

The Ottomans lived in this area until the end of their rule over Yemen, when the area was controlled by the Imam and his son Ahmed Bin Hameed Aldien. It remained under their control until the 26th of September revolution, and it was not used again until 1970. At that point, it was given to the Ministry of Education, which transformed it to a school for Islamic teaching, and it was later given by the Sports Ministry in 1990. Since that time it has been ignored, which has led to the destruction and decay of parts of the fort. However, there have recently been some efforts by the Antiquities Authority to repair the fort, in hopes that it could become an important tourist attraction in the Tihama.

By:
Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor
Yemen Times



important during the Rasulid period, and it remained an important center of power during the time of the Dahiria, the Mameluke Turks, and the Ottoman Empire.

The historical city of Zabid was the capital of the Rasulid state in that time period. It was surrounded by walls, which were later on buried and remained hidden for many years. Other cities

construction.

In this episode I am going to examine another monumental aspect of the Tihama and its Al-Khartab city. This city is located on the ancient city of Al-Garahi, which was a very important place in its time, but is largely ignored today.

The city of Zabid was known through the ages for its culture and civilization, and its famous

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Letters to the Editor

Yemen Times: Keep it up!

Our calamity is that we are losing all our great leaders, and the talented figures that, if allowed to live longer, would certainly have done miracles for our country. We have lost a lot, but this time we have lost a generation.

The news of Dr. Saqqaf's death stunned and shocked everyone. He was in the prime of his life, devoting his life to the task of creating a better tomorrow for Yemen. What he has achieved in his shortened life is tremendous, and he undoubtedly had more to give and produce. However, he has left us for good. I was completely shocked by the news of his death. But what shocked me more was the position this man had in the hearts of the people. While I was at the Yemen Times Taiz office, I received a large number of condolence calls. Most of the people did not believe the news, some broke into tears, but all agreed that this was a great loss, not only for his family but also for the Arab community in general and Yemen in particular. While distributing the Yemen Times with the Taiz

Bureau chief, people used to grab the pictures from our hands. Some knocked at the windows of the car while driving asking for their pictures of the late. Some even came to the office.

Dr. Saqqaf was one of the leading human rights defenders in Yemen and the Arab world. He was the real spirit of democracy in our country, the only one who could say 'No.' This commitment and determination to achieve his goals were formidable and impressive. Now the man is gone, but what he has preached about and struggled for is still alive. He struggled for democracy, human rights, and justice through the Yemen Times. I would sincerely ask his son Walid and those working at the Yemen Times to continue on the same path, following his footsteps to achieve the sacred mission he started. So, "never let him down."

Tawfiq M. Al-Shara'aby
Taiz University

Extra-Curricular Annual Activities in Taiz
First of all, I would like to

express my deep sorrow over the death of Dr. Saqqaf, publisher and chief editor of the Yemen Times. But, the paper will continue its mission of illuminating the society. We really find our solace in it.

I would also like to say that the English Department, Faculty of Arts Taiz university has launched a flurry of extra-curricular activities, which have become an annual tradition to search for bright young talents and nourish them further. Being one of the students of the department, I would like to thank the people in charge of the department, particularly Dr. Durayni, chairman of the department, Dr. Latif, the organizer of the activities, and Dr. Singh for their hard work to push us forward. I think such activities are very important for polishing up the students' skills. This tradition should be introduced in all the departments of our universities.

Nada Yahia Qanber
Taiz University

Noble People Never Grow Old
I had a belief that noble people

utilize all the accessible tools for the benefit of the bilateral relations between our two countries.

Q: Any closing comments?

A: Actually, what I would like to stress is my genuine feeling that I belong to this generous country and people. I would also like to extend my warm greetings to the President Ali Abdullah Saleh and all officials for their kind support to strengthen the positive cooperation between our two sister countries and people.

Finally, I would like to offer you my hope for progress and prosperity to your newspaper.

Sudanese Ambassador:

"I Feel a Strong Attachment to Yemen"

Yemen Times has established a tradition of speaking to every diplomat who has worked in Sanaa upon their arrival and their leaving. H.E. Sudanese Ambassador **Abdulbaqi Mohammed Hassan** is leaving Yemen now. On this occasion, **Ismail AL-Ghabery** of Yemen Times talked him and filed the following interview.

Q: On the occasion of finishing your work in Yemen, how do you see the Yemeni-Sudanese relation?

A: First of all I would like to thank Yemen Times for this opportunity and, again, to extend my sincere condolences to the Yemen Times and Dr. Saqqaf's family on the death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Actually, it is very difficult to evaluate in words the historical relations between our two brother people. But I can say that many cooperational protocols were signed through the few last years. And now it is easy to see how far, the bilateral official ties and popular relations have developed in all fields. I have also to point out what I feel from my own experience, that the progressive and positive bilateral relations will get stronger under the determination of the political leadership of our two sister countries.

Q: What is your impression of Yemen?

A: About twenty years ago I had been in Yemen for my first diplomatic mission, and luckily I was back for a second one in 1995. I am proud to say that really I feel strong attachment to this country and its people. Of course, I keep

myself informed of the great developments in Yemen, throughout the last 20 years, but I can highly consider the great achievements in all fields, and would like to especially mention the national unity and the establishment of the republic.

Q: How do you see the situation of Sudan today, particularly its relation with neighboring countries?

A: I guess that you are aware of some developments in Sudan through your readings or watching the different media, but you know this is not enough, it will never be like actually being present in a place. Sudan is surrounded by nine countries, and a couple of years back was suffering from minor troubles with four neighbors. But now I can say that the Sudanese diplomatic efforts have begun to bring the relations with all neighbors to a normal and healthy situation on the basis of communication and non-interference in other's affairs. Actually, the bilateral relations with each neighboring country is promising, and I am very hopeful in this regard.

Q: Could you please tell us something about your new work?

A: Of course, I will be back to the headquarters of the Ministry of External Relations to resume my duties, and I will do my best, from my new official post, through my popular contacts, to



utilize all the accessible tools for the benefit of the bilateral relations between our two countries.

Q: Any closing comments?

A: Actually, what I would like to stress is my genuine feeling that I belong to this generous country and people. I would also like to extend my warm greetings to the President Ali Abdullah Saleh and all officials for their kind support to strengthen the positive cooperation between our two sister countries and people.

Finally, I would like to offer you my hope for progress and prosperity to your newspaper.

never grow old. Now, the death of Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf has proven that belief.

Whenever I read his articles, I felt that such a man is ready to give his all for his country, and we all should follow him. I really can't express the sadness I feel at his death. May Allah be merciful to him.

I send my condolences to the deceased family and may Allah give you the patience in this

tragedy.

Abdulkarem Kaid

Great Loss to All Yemen

We came to Yemen last October and quickly discovered the Yemen Times, which we buy every week. We soon realized what a special and dedicated man your father was. We never dreamed we would have the privilege of meeting him. This happened at a dinner at the British

Ambassador's home last February. We had been kidnapped and were released the previous day, so we had the opportunity to chat to him, for which we were grateful.

His untimely death is a great loss not only to his family but also to Yemen as a whole. Our sympathy goes to you, your family and to the staff of Yemen Times. May God be your comfort.

Eddie and Mary Rosser

European Commission—Assistance Project to the National Population Council - Technical Secretariat (NPC-TS) for Information, Education and Communication (IEC)



Vacancy Announcement



The Project is inviting applications for the following position:

Information, Education, Communication Assistant

Duties & responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of IEC department of the NPC-TS, the office of the project asks on full time basis to carry out the following duties:

- 1- Inventory of existing IEC materials produced and used relevant to population and Reproductive Health, Mother and Child Health and Family Planning, and keep samples of them for the advisory group use and for the archive.
- 2- Attend the meetings of advisory group & record the minutes of the meetings.
- 3- Follow up the recommendations by the advisory group with the executive committee and, after approval, follow up with the implementing agencies to conduct the delegated task.
- 4- Monitoring of production of IEC materials according to agreed firm schedule.
- 5- Monitoring and follow up the dissemination / distribution / transmission of produced IEC materials.
- 6- Keep up to date record of the National IEC experts in Yemen.
- 7- Assist in establishment of a small documentation center.
- 8- Assist in compiling and writing reports in English and Arabic according to donors and project requirements.


Qualifications Experience / Skills requirements:

- 1- Applicants should be Yemeni Nationality.
- 2- He/She should have experience in information, education, communication and public relations for at least five years.
- 3- Full computer literacy.
- 4- Very good English and Arabic language skills in speaking, reading, and writing.

Interested candidates are requested to send their detailed C. V. together with other supporting documents in English to:

EC-TA to the National Population Council — Technical Secretariat / Amran Rd, opposite to Teleyemen/ Fax: 231313, P. O. Box 12511, Sana'a

- Applications should be received no later than **July 10th, 1999**.
- Applications received after this date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements should apply and acknowledgement will only be sent to short listed applicants meeting the requirements of the post.



Teaching Young Children: From Miserable to Enjoyable Experience

It is a fact that many teachers of English who start out by teaching young children, find it to be a horrible experience. Then, just a few of these teachers will successfully turn this seeming nightmare into a pleasant dream. However, for those who fail to do so, I present this article trying to help them make teaching young children very rewarding. To make it more practical, I have surveyed the views of some experienced teachers. In this survey, I tried to get what their first impression was when they began to teach kids and how they proved it to be gainful and enriching experience:

Mr. Fuad Al-Aswadi (Teacher of English and principal of a private institute) says, "I have been teaching students of different ages and levels for over six years. However, when I started teaching kids, I really felt inadequate for my job. I become as nervous as they were. Then I realized that the younger they are, the shorter their attention span. To help them and myself as well I turned to using different techniques. I felt that a variety of activities is always the key. Nevertheless, an activity should last not more than ten minutes before they get bored."

Abeer A.M (Teacher of English

at a private school) says; "I believe that teaching kids is more complicated than teaching other students of other ages. A teacher here must be creative and able to use various of activities. For instance, I always start my class with a physical warm up to get rid of some of the excess energy the children have. Then I settle them down to a quieter activity like drawing or matching exercises. Labeling pictures on the wall is another interesting activity. In fact there are many useful activities that can be done in the class but this depends on the class size and the school facilities."

Khalid Gabir also declares "It was a nightmare for me to teach young children but then I realized that my impression was completely false. I came to know that children enjoy greater imagination and they are more creative and responsive. The way they pick up on things is very rewarding."

From what has been said above, we can conclude the fact that it is very vital to maintain the interest of children and that they must find their lessons enjoyable. Actually, keeping the children's interest is important because it is the first contact most of them will have had with



English. However, we must bear in mind that children have their own learning expectations. In other words there must be a balance between keeping their interest and making them feel they are learning.

Another important factor that should be taken in consideration is the parents' expectations. Some parents may misunderstand the teacher's use of games, songs, drawings in the class. They might feel that their children are not learning. In such cases, a teacher could write to them justifying their actions.

Finally, I would like to end this article with some helpful hints suggested by some experienced teachers. These hints, some of which can be followed before going for the first time to school and other hints that must be practiced in class:

a- Before you start teaching
1. Try to visit some primary schools and observe the activi-

ties done in classrooms and the children's reaction.

2. Read some course books to help you with syllabus, ideas and topics and a few readers.

3. If you are not a musician, take song books with tapes.

b- In the classroom.

1. Vary pace and activities, 15-20 minutes is enough for one activity.

2. Include as many physical activities as you can in your program.

3. Start out being much stricter than you will be later on; this gives you something to fall back on when you need it.

4. Always remember that kids are learning more than language. In fact they are learning social and interactive skills and learning about the world as well. So the more you can include this, the more they will respond and become involved and receptive to the language.

By: Abdullah
Al-Hashedi
Sana'a
University



Lufthansa: Laudable Strides in the World of Business

The Annual General Meeting of Lufthansa was held June 24 in Cologne. Lufthansa's Chairman Mr. Jurgen Weber was able to present the best Group result in the company's history to shareholders and guests. In 1998 Lufthansa made a profit of DM 2.5 billion before tax. It was an excellent result according to international standards. The net Group result of DM 1.4 billion accounts for one quarter of the cumulative annual net profit of all the 265 member airlines of the International Air Traffic Association (IATA).

The greatest share was contributed by Lufthansa AG, which lifted its revenue by 4.7%, rising the dividend per shareholder to 22%.

He expressed his point of view in the optimum use of airports and air traffics without any traffic delays that may waste fuel where Lufthansa alone wastes over 100,000 tones of kerosene in holding patterns, waiting for permission to land.

He has also announced the "Operational Excellence" program that has been drawn up for three years which focuses on punctuality and expected that Lufthansa will soon return to its usual form in the key area of service quality.

Lufthansa is better prepared for the changing situation than most of the rival carriers. Financially Lufthansa in a robust shape and have a solid investment portfolio and healthy Group companies which will grow together to become an aviation concern active in seven business areas offering air traffic and aviation-related services.

Effective from July 1 1999 for the first time, Lufthansa German Airlines' business unit will be headed by a chairman and will expand the airline board, which is responsible for all Lufthansa scheduled air service from five to six members. In addition, a first-ever chief operating officer will be appointed for the tourism business of Deutsche Lufthansa AG, who will be centrally responsible at Lufthansa and the tourism business unit, reporting directly to the Executive Board of the Lufthansa Group.

Dr. Karl-Friedrich Rausch has been appointed as the chairman of the board of the Lufthansa as he was the president and chief operating officer and responsible for the product and service. He will have direct responsibility for controlling the airlines and encompass alliance management; he will also be responsible for the quality assurance at Lufthansa.

Mr. Stefan Pichler is the Executive Vice President at Lufthansa and in addition to that he has been appointed as Chief Operating Tourism Officer.

New on the airline board is Mr. Thomas Sattelburger, hitherto Senior Vice President in charge of Executive Personal and Human Resource Development at the Lufthansa Group, has been appointed as the Executive Vice President of product and Services at the airline.

Mr. Ralf Teckentrup will be responsible in future for network management and marketing including market communications.

يتطلع كل من السيد / شارلز فيشر، النائب التنفيذي للرئيس والمدير العام الأول للعمليات لشركة

كنيديان أوكسيدنتال بتروليم ليمتد

والسيد / لاري مرفي، النائب الأول لرئيس شركة كنيديان أوكسيدنتال بتروليم ليمتد،

والدكتور وليد جزراوي، الرئيس والمدير العام لشركة كنيديان أوكسيدنتال بتروليم ليمتد

إلى المشاركة في ملتقى الديمقراطيات الناشئة المزمع إنعقاده في صنعاء

في الفترة ما بين 28-30 يونيو 1999م،

ويتقدمون بأحر التهاني القلبية، وأصدق الأمنيات لفخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح،

والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بهذه المناسبة الهامة.

Mr. Charles Fischer, Executive Vice president & Chief Operating Officer,
Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd.

Mr. Larry Murphy, Senior Vice President, International Division,
Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd.,

and Dr. Waleed Jazrawi, President & General Manager of
Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen

look forward to attending the Emerging Democracies Forum in Sana'a, June 28-30.
Canadian Occidental would like to present their heartiest congratulations and best
wishes to

H. E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and the Yemeni people on this important occasion.



Smuggling: The Main Headache of Yemeni Economy

Under the emblem of "Be patriotic and fight smuggling!" the Yemeni Society for Consumer protection (YSCP) held the first national seminar on smuggling last week.

This seminar came as part of the continuing battle against smuggling in our society. The Society is working to find solutions for the problems from which our country suffers, such as smuggling. Smuggling is dangerous to the national economy as well as the consumer's health.

Mr. Mohammed Ali Al-Maktari lawyer and legal supervisor of the society said: "Until now we have not built the infrastructure of the society, and this seminar is part of the society activities which aim at building an information base explaining the negative effects of smuggling. It will be beneficial in implementing the right policies and in combating this phenomenon that is so harmful our economy." He also added that the society is trying to establish relations with all the private consumer protection societies in the Arab world, so as to make use of their experiences in this field.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Dailami discussed the different types of smuggled cars, electrical devices, textiles and Alcohol in his paper. He indicated that there are around 200 groups of smugglers in the country.

Another paper was presented by Mr. Abdul Rahman Zabarah, in which he discussed the various smuggled foodstuffs and their negative effects. It also focused on the role of the health environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Construction and Housing in combating smuggling through direct monitoring of the goods in the market.

The Customs Authority presented a paper in which it explained the reasons for the spread of smuggling. It has also called for the cooperation of the media in raising the public awareness towards the detriments of smuggling.

Dr. Ali Al-Noumani presented a paper about smuggled medicines and their hazards. He has explained the reasons for this phenomenon, which has similar reasons to those for smuggling other goods. If government establishments can not provide the required quantities of medicine, then other agents will provide them by illicit means. Mr. Al-Habib Kirrfal, an expert in the International Organization for Consumers protection and the head of the Arab Consumer protection Union, said that all the papers that were presented in this seminar were good, and presented some clues to the problems resulting from smuggling. Mr. Kirrfal suggested the following:

- 1: There should be branches for this society so that it could spread fast in many parts the country.
- 2: Establish a Magazine and a cooperation with the various mass media that can keep the consumer aware of all smuggled products.
- 3: Concentrating on examining the products that are used daily, so that the consumer will be satisfied by the things that he can get legally.
- 4: The government and the parliament should also implement necessary constitution measures for either the market or the consumer and set some standard specifications.

Recommendations:

By the end of the workshop the participants agreed on the following recommendations:

First: In the field of laws and constitutions:

- 1: Accelerate the issuance of the laws that will be recommended, and institute quality control agencies.
- 2: Passing a law concerned with protecting consumers.
- 3: Enforcing the present laws, and adjust-

ing them whenever necessary.

Second : The role of the concerned bodies

- 1: Emphasizing more cooperation between the interior and defense ministries.
- 2: Establishing a unit concerned with combating smuggling.

Third: The Ministry of justice should specify independent courts for smuggling.

Four: Health and Agriculture

- 1: Both Ministries of Health and Agriculture should be active at all the customs check points.
- 2: Licenses should be given to importers only after the agreement of the ministry.

Five: Supply and Trade

- 1: Improve the monitoring on supply for the benefit of the consumer.

Six: Housing and Urban Planing

- 1: The general administration office should perform its role according to the constitutional amendment number 38 for the year 1992, regarding the regulation and organizing of imports.

Seven: Activating the role of Non-Governmental organizations in this regard.

By : Ahlam Al-Khawlati
Yaser Mohammed Ahmed

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Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas



Al-Shoura,
Sanaa weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Federation of the People's
Forces,
20/6/1999

A- Front-page headlines

- 1- Widespread public discontent following the army attack on Kuradha, Taiz. The area's elders and Sheikhs held a meeting in Taiz city to discuss the deteriorating situation.
- 2- On Monday 21, the Government meets with opposition parties to end the issue of representation in the Emerging Democracies Forum.
- 3- In Dhamar, tribal clashes in Shuwkan village end the lives of 8 people. The situation is still tense and ominous.
- 4- Smuggled goods swamp local markets and threaten more distress.
- 5- Massive condemnation of violations by the PGC and the Supreme Elections Commission.

B- Issue's Editorial

Many people in our country talk about democracy, though only a very few of them are really

adherent to it in their behaviors and practices. Real democracy can be initiated only when the society deals with it as an integral system. Therefore, our democracy will remain meaningless without the establishment of local government, that ensures the people's participation in the administration of their daily affairs. Real democracy does not exist when the strings of power, money and influence are concentrated in the hands of the ruling party as is the case in Yemen. The absence or at least the corruption of the judiciary also blocks the way to real democracy. These issues are fundamental in the process of building real democracy and therefore must be dealt with as priorities to be discussed during the Emerging Democracies Forum. But before all that, official media should be counterbalanced by accepting the role of independent/opposition media which are constantly harassed and restricted. The ruling party should stop using the threat of denying other parties' the right to register in the Parties Affairs Commission as a means of putting pressure on them. How can our country ever continue to democratize when the ruling party is still using the tactics of

oppression?



Attariq,
Aden Weekly,
Independent,
22/6/1999

Front-Page Headlines

- 1- A Saudi Prince is appointed to run the state affairs in Al-Khrakheer instead of Shiekh Al-Menhali. The move comes to strengthen the Saudi grip over the occupied Al-Kharakheer.
- 2- Mr. Jarullah Omer of the YSP Politburo, the Secretary of the Political Department, presides over an exceptional meeting for the YSP Central Committee to study the issue of the presidential candidate. The names of Yassin Nu'oman and Faraj Bin Ghanem were put forward during this meeting, which is said to have been extremely tense.
- 3- Yemen asks for economic aid from Canada.
- 4- In Aden, a terrible fire ravaged a confections factory. No reports have been available as to the motives or the perpetrators.



Al-Wahdawi,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
The Nasserite Unionist Party,
22/6/1999.

A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- Tens were killed and injured, while hundreds were displaced and had their houses looted as a result of confrontations between the army and the citizens of Kuwradha, Saber, and Taiz.
- 2- The Yemeni Socialist Party reasserts their former decision to take part in the presidential election.
- 3- In confirmation of previous reports, a new group of 40 Yemeni Jews is preparing to leave Yemen for occupied Palestine.
- 4- The Nasserites and the YSP are to represent the Opposition Coordination Council in the Emerging Democracies Forum.
- 5- The Nasserite Party and Islah withdraw from a committee formed by the Parliament to study alleged violations of the Supreme Election Commission.
- 6- Two Russian experts barely escaped a kidnapping attempt in Mareb. One of them is said to have been injured.

B- Issue's Editorial

One of the ironical contrasts of this country is the State's odd claims of its wide popularity among the masses who, according to the Ruling Authorities, always give their unlimited support to whatever steps or policies the State has taken. Meanwhile, these authorities fight hard to forge the voter's lists through duplicating names, inserting unreal names or enlisting non-eligible kids in the voters lists. Military movements from one place to another and the creation of new and temporary military barracks usually intensify during elections seasons. The same authorities rally their huge material as well as legal powers to force army and security personnel to register in different constituencies than their own. The authorities will do anything to use public institutions, like schools, offices etc., to their own advantage by spreading nasty badmouthing and inflicting aggressive political discrimination against any and every citizen who is not affiliated with them. In former meetings with the opposition parties, the authorities have admitted the existence of such violations and shortcomings which were exposed through computers. The excessiveness of these violations was too outrageous to believe as the number of duplicated and unreal names has reach 550,000. Nevertheless, the authorities are now keeping on playing the ugly games after they have turned their backs on previous agreements with other political parties. Now what does all this mean? Isn't it the fear of these authorities of fair and real elections? Does it reflect the lack or absence of confidence between the present government and the masses who have been painfully hit following the government's

harsh and one-sided "reforms"? Facts of our present political life indicate that our government has reached a neurotic stage in which they will do any thing to preserve the status quo.



Al-Mithaq,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the People's General Congress,
21/6/1999

A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- President of the Republic inaugurates Sukatra's Airport, Tareem's Water Project and Safer-Sayuon's Highway, marking a new phase of Yemen's progress to the future.
- 2- The President of the republic to the Paper: "Preparations are under way for holding the upcoming PGC General Conference on time.
- 3- PGC Assistant Secretary General Mr. Yahya Almotawakel visits the working units in the PGC sub-committees and reviews preparatory activities.



Al-Balagh,
Sanaa weekly,
Independent,
23/6/1999

A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- Bani Dhabyian of Khuwlan rejects mediation in the killing of one of their sons and insists on the handing over of the killers.
- 2- The Parliament ratifies Arab Anti-Terrorism Accord.
- 3- West Sanaa District Court proceeds in the case between Opposition Parties and the Ministry of Information.
- 4- Government campaign against the carrying of weapons in major cities.
- 5- Saudi Prince Na'eef states that matters are progressing on the right track between Yemen and Saudia Arabia.

B- Issue's Editorial

The lives of many citizens are still cut short under the name of taking revenge, which has intensified to an alarming degree. Almost every tribe in Yemen has fallen victim to the phenomenon of retaliation, in a blatant transgression of Islamic rules. Meanwhile, the government stands helplessly, or maybe carelessly, by and refuses to put an end to these crazy chains of killings. It is as if there is a desire to turn the country into a jungle of fire that devours every thing in front of its way. Today, the new-old story of tribal animosity between the tribes of Hashed and those of Bakeel has come up to the surface as a direct result of retaliation. Tension between the two sides has approached the danger zone, causing many tribal elders and religious scholars to rally their efforts to prevent possible outbreak by finding some way out. Motivated by religious, national and human considerations, we should support such efforts and call on the government to shoulder its responsibility to stop tribal wars by enforcing the Word of Justice, so that aggressors can

meet their fair punishment.



Al-Rai Al-Aam,
Sanaa Weekly,
Independent,
22/6/1999

A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- The government's version of privatization is futile and can cripple the growth of national economy.
- 2- Islah and Nasserite members in the Parliament challenge as unlawful the Parliament's authority in controlling the supreme Election Commission.
- 3- Shiekh Al-Ahmer, the Speaker of the Parliament, escapes certain death in a car crash.
- 4- The Ministry of Oil tries to expropriate salaries of local employees.

B- Issue's Editorial

Leaders of political parties -in the government or opposition- along with their respective newspapers, are nowadays busily concerned with the issue of the presidential elections which will be held in the coming October. The rest of the country, about 17 million, are totally taken up with how to sustain their very basic needs of food, shelter and security. Hence, they are indifferent to the upcoming presidential elections. This situation can only reflect the vicious circle in which our political leaders have found themselves as a result of their narrow and selfish interests which plunge the country in a mess of corruption, inflation and chaos. It seems that we are dealing with two contradictory views related to the presidential elections. One view expresses the official stance, while the other one expresses the view of the opposition. The officials are eminently careful to see that the process of elections is completed successfully, because they want to end up with foreign blessings and praise. On the other hand, opposition parties which can not have real interests in the upcoming elections are also careful to turn this issue in to a nonsensical farce so as to belittle this experience in the eyes of foreign observers. Both views have one thing on common: They are totally detached from the real problems of the people which are endangering their very existence.



Ray,
Sanaa weekly, Mouthpiece of
The League of the Sons of
Yemen (Rabita Party),
22/6/1999.

A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- 324,618 applicants for public work compete for only 8117 jobs. The final arbiter in such cases is favoritism.
- 2- 70 billion YR. is the total amount spent in smuggling commodities into the country.
- 3- Britain and Germany reduce the level of their representation in Democracies Forum.
- 4- The Minister of Interior pledges to arrest the killer of Al-Huribai.



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Continued from Page 3:

Yemen Times Interviews NDI President, Mr. Kenneth Wallock

Q: Freedom of the press is considered to be one of the pillars of democracy. But in Yemen, where illiteracy is around 87%, electronic media is vital, but it is still monopolized by the state. How do you assess freedom of the press in Yemen?

A: I can't answer that. I am not an expert on press freedoms in Yemen. I do believe, whether it is any country going through a transition, that it is one of the challenges. In many countries the state

owns the mass media, and owns the broadcasting rights. In some countries the states have privatized the mass media, other states have provided some channels that are privatized. Some places have state ownership of the broadcast media, but they provide mechanisms that will enable the media to be independent. I think that one of the challenges is to create mechanisms that will enable the mass media to be independent when the broadcasting systems

are owned by the state. Media that is owned by the states has to abide by different standards than media that is owned privately.

Q: Do you deal with government and opposition parties equally? How do you find the work of the opposition parties in Yemen?

A: As a matter of fact, when we were planning this conference, we worked closely with all the major parties, both those represented in

parliament and those outside of the parliament. We consulted very closely with them. NDI has a separate political party program with the major political parties here, so I believe we have a very close and cordial relationship with all the parties, both ruling and opposition, and those parties will be represented at the conference. NDI's role is not to side with a particular political party, our role is to support a political process where people across the political spectrum can participate. We are not here nor in other countries to take sides in a democratic process, but to help provide assistance to help strengthen that process. An opposition in Yemen and anywhere in the world is an integral part of a democratic system. A strong, loyal opposition is a vital ingredient of democracy.

Q: In any democratic country,

there shouldn't be a Ministry of Information, but in Yemen we still have this.

A: I can't judge these institutions. I do not believe that there are other democratic countries that have Ministries of Information. In my view it is how institutions like this behave and act. Their very existence doesn't necessarily indicate that democracy has come or not come to these societies. I tend to judge people and organizations and institutions by their behavior, not by their presence.

Q: Do you think that the absence of Dr. Saqqaf, who was considered to be the most important defender of human rights and democracy in Yemen will affect the democratic process in Yemen?

A: He was very courageous and a strong visionary, and I believe that his legacy will be a strong one, and so therefore his contribution to the democratic process in Yemen, because of his personality, and the force of his dedication will outlive him for many years. That is his great legacy to this country.

Q: Any closing statement?

A: Let me just say that I think that the world has seen dramatic changes over the past decade. As I said earlier today, the world has heard a great deal about the democratic movements in countries like South Africa, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Poland, but too often there is a class of countries in every region of the world that do not get the attention that they deserve. Too often people travel over these countries to reach other countries. I think that the purpose of this conference is to bring those countries together, to shine an international spotlight on countries that have been carrying out economic and political change in relative obscurity, and to provide a support network for those countries, and to demonstrate that their is a strong international interest in those countries and their development. This conference will hopefully not only stimulate discussion that will help individual countries further their democratic systems, but also establish relationships and networks so that this learning process will continue long after this conference is concluded.

If you have updates or additions to this list, please call Anwar Al-Sayyadi at Tel: 268661



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Kuwait Hospital	283282/3
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Central Bank	274310/1
Commercial Bank Sana'a	213662/6
Hodeidah	217040/3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank of Yemen	275373
YBRD	271623/4

BRANCH OF FOREIGN BANKS:

Arab Bank Ltd.	276592/3
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424

GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	332001/2
Radio Station	282061

INSURANCE COMPANIES:

Y. I. & ReInsurance Aden	273311
Marib Insurance Sana'a	206112/4
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General Sana'a	265191
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United Ins. Co. Sana'a	272890/2
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AIRLINES:

Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways (Sana'a)	267929
British Airways (Aden)	241534
Cathay Pacific	272432
Egypt Air	275061
Emirates	244444
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	265274/75
KLM	278747
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	213400
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	272540
Sabena	285865/925
Sudan Airways	279210

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Ethiopia	208833
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Germany	413180/413174
Hungary	263586
India	243440/248343
Indonesia	414633
Iran	413552/3/4
Iraq	269571/4/5/6
Italy	269165
Jordan	413275/6/7/9
Kuwait	268876/9
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	267636/4
Mauritania	264188
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	263323/4/63
Oman	208874/5
Pakistan	248812/3/4
Palestine	264236/66
Poland	413523/4
Qatar	269654/7/11
Rumania	205515/209003
Russia (FR)	278719/283142
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	247885
Syria	414891/2

Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	263476/241395
U. A. E.	248777/78
U. K.	264081/4
U. S. A.	238842/52

2. Honorary Consulates

Austria	266725
Belgium	286965
Canada	208814
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215170
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	208745
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	414844

3. International Organization

FAO	207331/607
UNDP	415505/6/7
UNHCR	201856
UNICEF	211400/1/2
WHO	252220
World Bank	413706/8/10
European Union	248495

Aden Consulates:

China	233115
Egypt	231270
Germany	232161
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Russia (FR)	232792/232625
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Syrian Airways	272543	Crescent Hotel	203471/2/3
Universal Travel (HO)	275028/9/30		
Universal-Zubeiri	245888		
Universal - Bonia	272861/2/3		
Universal Aden	221146, 243475		
Universal Taiz	225383/4		
Universal Hodeidah	226980		
Universal Mukalla	(05)354842/4/5		
Bazara Travel	78093/270879		
Ilias I. T. T.	273338/275554		
Al-Nasim Travel	270750		

YEMENIA BRANCHES:

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Haddah	204538/550
Shauob	250833
Zubeiri	260834/5
Head Office	232381/9
Reservations	250800/1
Airport	250868/831

HOTELS:

Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Plaza Suites	209074/209903/205483
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Aden

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Telephone: 02-243319
Fax: 02-240813
Telex: 6387 SHBANI YE

Taiz

P.O. Box: 5726
Telephone: 04-219292
Fax: 04-219294
Telex: 8947

Mukalla

P.O. Box: 50261
Telephone: 05-303913
Fax: 05-303503
Telex: To Aden

أجل التظاني وأطيب التبريكات ترفطاً للأخ المهندس خالد شمسان
بمناسبة ارتقائه مولوده الجديد والذي أسماه

تشانينا

«عبد العزيز»
جعل الله قرّة عين والديه ونفع به أهله ووطنه

المهندسون
جميع سكان عمارة (٤) في مجمع الأوقاف السكني

"Sanaa Must be Seen, However Long the Journey.."

Historical Background

Sanaa, one of the precious gems in the crown of human civilization, was called the City of San and the City of Azal by the Arab chroniclers. Both are progeny of Noah. Therefore, it is considered by many historians, both Arab and Foreign, to be one of the oldest cities in the history of mankind. The name San itself is believed to be the name of the son of Azal, grandson of prophet Noah.

Architecture and Construction

The old city of Sanaa was built in a unique and original way. Its foundations were made up of massive boulders, tremendously heavy and strong. The houses were built of black stones of Al-habash, carefully cut, and deftly adorned with smaller pieces of red, white and green stones which were brought from different places. Some houses were built up of Yajoor: red bricks made out of burnt

mud. Most houses in Old Sanaa are high (five to nine stories) and each story is marked with a rocky belt designed as a hand ring which adds a touch of elegance. Small openings are dug in the widows of the old houses as a means of ventilation and sight-seeing. Above the windows, a half-spherical shape of marble and glass is built. This shape is known as Al-Kamariah from the Arabic word Kamar or the moon. The function of this shape is derived from its name, i.e. to let the light of the moon come inside the rooms during the nights where there is a full moon. The pure transparency and variety of colors of Al-Kamariah glass creates a magical atmosphere during moony nights.

As a rule, the areas around the windows are painted white; usually the paint is drawn up to a point at the top of the window, or the semicircle may be flanked by paintings with abstract floral ornaments on

either side. Between the windows, extending from one horizontal border to the next, there are sometimes vertical geometrical ornaments in brick with semi-circular termination. They bear a similarity to the tree of life on carpets.

In most houses of Old Sanaa, a small and square room is built on the top floor and is designed to host qat-chewers. This room is lavishly decorated with beautiful shapes of arabesque. It's called the Mafraj. The windows of the Mafraj are spacious and always kept clean for the purpose of providing open views of the city's landscape.

Old Sanaa's Gates

A few decades ago, Sanaa had many gates that were closed after sunset for purpose of security and other cultural reasons. They were part of the slow pace of life in pre-revolutionary Yemen. Now, there are only two main gates that are never closed. The one to the north is called Bab-Sha'oub. The southern gate is more impressive. It is called Bab Al-Yemen, or the gate of Yemen. It was given this name because Yemenis used

to use the word Yemen to mean south.

Crafts and Trades

The people of old Sanaa are famous for their handicrafts, that require a great deal of skills and imagination. Gold and silversmiths, carpenters and iron-smiths, architects and designers used to form major part of the population. Even now, jambias are made by hand, and there are many expert craftsmen in the old city.

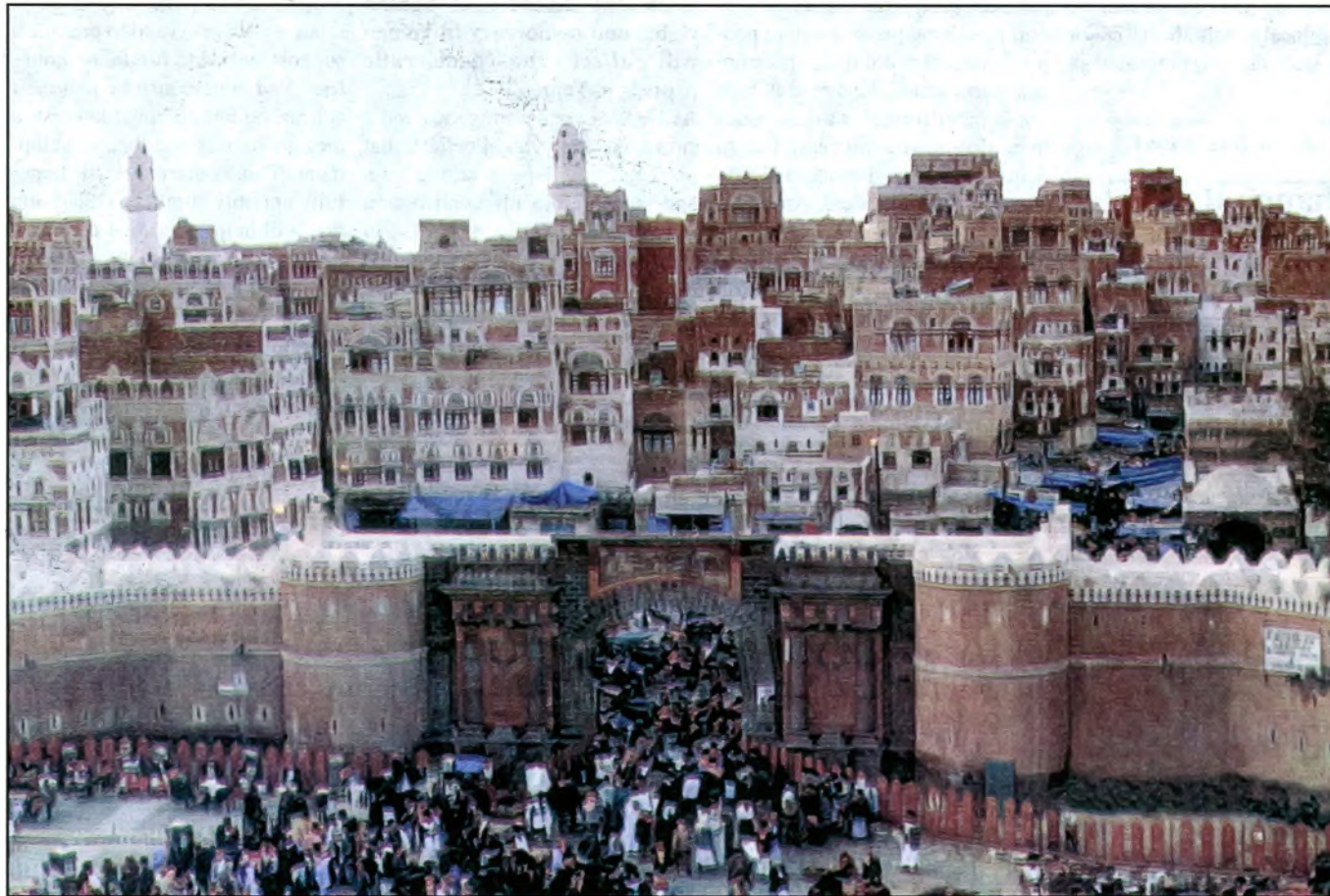
The Weather

The weather in Sanaa is perhaps the finest in the world. It is among the few places where the need for air conditioning devices does not exist. In the summer, temperatures do not exceed the 30s, while in the winter they invariably do not go below teens. One can count on breezes if he/she strolls the streets, especially at night. Sanaa's rain falls early in the spring and during mid-summer. Many houses have yards where a fruits are grown, including grapes, peaches, and apricots.

For many reasons, Sanaa has become the country's main attraction. The unique mix of the past and present, as well as its fine weather, are reason enough for thousands of foreign tourists to come and visit. Long ago, when means of transportation were still primitive, an Arab poet summarized his hankering for Sanaa by saying:

"Sanaa must be seen, however long the journey. Though the camel droops, legworn in the way."

By: Mohammed Abbas
Yasser M. Ahmed,
Yemen Times



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Sanaa
Tel: (967-1) 247852
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Tel: (967-2) 377328
Fax: (967-2) 377716
E-Mail: cccadenl@y.net.ye



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