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• SANA'A • July 26th through August 1st, 1999 **Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf** Vol. IX, Issue No. 30 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals

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**Words of Wisdom**  
"If those in power want to control everything, this can hardly be called a democracy or pluralist. It becomes a central dictatorship. In other words, it is part of the game to allow different participants to exercise varying levels of influence in the system."  
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999)  
Yemen Times Founder



## Can an Unfamiliar Candidate Really Compete Against President Saleh? The Presidential Race On: Ali Abdullah Saleh vs. Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi

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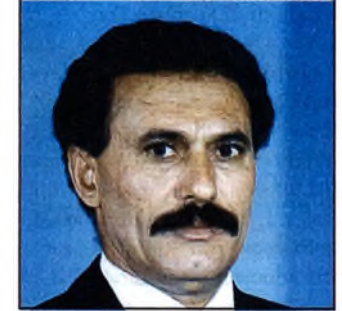
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Last Wednesday, the Parliament tightly short-listed the nominees for the position of the President of the Republic of Yemen. Among 30 nominees applying, only 2 were able to pass the 10% required endorsement from the members of the Parliament. It is interesting to note that the only competitor against the president will

**Presidential Candidates and Votes**  
1- Ali Abdullah Saleh - 184 votes  
2- Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi - 39 votes  
3- Khaled Ahmed Ali Al-Zurqa - 25 votes  
4- Ali Saleh Obad Moqbil - 7 votes  
\* All the other candidates were not even given a single vote!

be Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi, the son of the first president of the former South Yemen, Qahtan Al-Shaabi. Najeeb is a well known ally of the President and a member of the Permanent Committee of the the ruling Party, the People's General Congress. This implies that the elections would merely turn out to be a referendum, unless Al-Shaabi can truly live up to the challenge and launch a very strong campaign against the President. However, observers suggest that this is unlikely. On the other hand, disappointment among the opposition parties was quite evident, as their collective nominee, Ali Saleh Obad Moqbil was denied the required endorsement, obtaining only 7 votes. After the voting session was over, the opposition met and released a statement that strongly criticized the authorities for disqualifying their nominee, and as they say it



"this brings the country to the pre-democratic era". The Islah party also expressed its dissatisfaction with the results, even though their party did not give the other candidates a single vote. On the occasion of his prequalification as a candidate for the Presidency, Najeeb Al-Shaabi gave a statement, which started by thanking Parliament and the authorities for making this voting session a "success" for democracy and a boost for moving on with the the democratization process.

### President Saleh Attends Funeral of Late King Hassan



Following the death of King Hassan II of Morocco, President Saleh, flew to Rubat yesterday to attend the late King's funeral ceremony. The Royal Family will be receiving tens of delegations represented by presidents and heads of states from all over the world.

President Saleh was the last Head of State to meet King Hassan before his death. King Hassan, 70, died on Friday following a heart attack bringing an end to his 38-year-old rule. His eldest son, Crown Prince Mohammed was enthroned in a swift succession allegiance ceremony just few hours later after the announcement of King Hassan's death. The new King Mohammed VI is likely to face many challenges, politically and economically.. As Yemen Times pays its sincere condolences to the bereaved royal family, it wishes the best of success for the new King Mohammed.

### Hearings of the Dr. Saqqaf's Case Continues in its 3rd Court Session Postponed Again!

Yesterday morning, the Traffic Court of Sana'a continued its hearings in the third court session regarding the car accident that led to the tragic death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the founder of Yemen Times. During the session, the lawyer of the defendant, Dr. Abdunasser Al-Zindani asked the court to release the defendant Samir Al-Sirri on bail against appropriate surety. He also urged that the Prosecution to be clear in his accusation.

The Prosecution deferred his response to the next session. The Judge consequently, ruled that he cannot decide on re-investigation (see last issue), until the Prosecution files his response. Hence, he postponed the court's decision until the next session to be held two weeks later on August 16th.



### Lifting Yemen from the 148th Spot

The United Nations Annual Human Development Report 1999 released this month shows that Yemen is among the bottom ranking countries in terms of the human development indicators achieved. Yemen holds the 148th position among 174 countries, with respect to the various indicators of human developments used, which include: life expectancy, literacy, combined gross enrollment rates, GDP, education, human development index, etc. The UN Report indicates that the rate of poverty in Yemen has increased to 27% in 1998, (4.3 million people), while in 1992 it was just 19.1% (3.2 million people). Although this ranking is better than the 1998 ranking of 151, the situation has to be viewed in the context of the actual indicators given and the relative comparison to the

other countries, as well as the actual situation on the ground. With Yemen's fast growing population the unemployment rate is approaching the 40% mark. Consequently the country is getting poorer and malnutrition is widespread. President Saleh states that the main reason behind the increasing level of poverty is the rapidly growing population of the country.. The population is doubling every 19 years, with a growth rate of 3.7 percent a year between 1988-1994. The population is expected to reach 18.9 million in 2001. Official estimates put the population now at about 17.5 million. It is obvious that the next President will still continue to face the critical problem of getting the country on the right track of development..

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**OUR  
VIEWPOINT**

**The Parliament  
Goofed!**

"Total disappointment!". That is what comes to mind after the latest presidential nomination proceedings in the parliament. Parliament, which is supposed to be the defender of democracy and free speech, has unfortunately turned out to be the opposite. Indeed, the institution, which is supposed to open the way for free and honest competition for all who wish to join in the presidential race has shut the doors closed. It was not a good sign for instilling the democratic process in Yemen. Among all the approximately 30 people who applied to compete against the current President, only one was given the chance to be a candidate: Najeeb Al-Shaabi, who is a well-known PGC permanent committee member, thus he could not be regarded as a real opposing candidate. In other words, this move has killed competition, and will result in a boring 1999 presidential elections with no real competition whatsoever.

There was no reason for the parliament to act in such a way. On the contrary, one would expect that the Parliament would act responsibly by allowing more than one real nominees to take part in this great historical event. But by its action, the Parliament only made the democratic transformation harder. In my point of view, the President of the Republic himself - who was out of the country, at the time - would not appreciate this move, at least for the sake of not turning the elections into a referendum. In issues that concern the nation as a whole, the members of Parliament should think of the interests of the public before their own interests and the interests of their respective parties. Disappointment among citizens, politicians, intellectuals, and most Yemenis has been visibly evident after the rejection of these 28 candidates for the Presidency by Parliament. It was a pity that the country had to lose such an opportunity to see real democratic competition for the most important government executive office. The 10% prerequisite endorsement of the Parliament for any candidate had a negative impact on the elections. It limited the ability of the nation to decide for itself directly. It clearly gives a bigger chance for the ruling authorities to manipulate the course of the elections. It definitely limits the people's choice. The parliament should have let the people of the country decide directly among all 30 candidates, instead of limiting their choice to only two, if they all qualified to meet the criteria set by the Constitution, for the position.

I hope that this 10% required percentage would be lifted and not be used in the forthcoming elections. We should be fair to all, no matter what their political persuasion is. If we don't want our system to be a dictatorship just wearing the suit of democracy, then this prerequisite should be cancelled.

In the end, how shall we proceed? Will Najeeb Qahtan be given an opportunity to prove himself a real opposition candidate? In order to prove to the people that these elections are not just theatrics, we should expect that Najeeb Al-Shaabi will be given the equal resources, time on the media and the other tools that will enable him to prove that he is more than just a puppet candidate.

Walid Al-Saqqaf  
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

**The Publisher**  
وليد السقاف

**YR 5 Billion Loss as a Result of Tobacco Smuggling**  
Yemen lost about YR 5 billion so far due to tobacco smuggling. The number is further growing and has reached an increase of 20-28% this year. The government's inability to prevent smuggling is costing the country a lot, and it will further harm the economy, unless something is done about it. The consumption tax revenue and the customs sector was losing YR 250 million, in customs duties on tobacco imports. The National Tobacco and Matches Company admits this development and claims that the company had lost YR 2 billion, in sales from 1994 to 1998. Smuggling is expected to weaken the economy even further if certain measures to stop it will not be implemented in the near future.

**5th Compensation Given to Yemeni Immigrants**  
The Ministry of Immigrants has started distributing the fifth disbursement of compensation money, Class C, due to those Yemenis coming back from Kuwait and Iraq as a result of the Gulf War. Dr. Ahmad Al-Bishari, Minister of Immigrants, pointed out that the Ministry began distributing the compensation money in November 1998 up to July 1999. "Around US \$ 30,000,000 has been paid, so far", the Minister added. He went on saying that \$ 4,000,000 would be distributed among 1,800 people. The number of beneficiaries so far who will have been compensated will then reach 16,000 after payment of this installment. On the other hand, the Ministry of Immigrants formed a special committee to distribute the compensation money in Hadhramout, Al-Maharh, Dhamar, Aden and The Secretarial Capital.

**Chambers of Commerce & Industry Condemn Their Federation**  
The Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Sanaa, Aden, Hodeidah, Taiz, and Ibb held a meeting to discuss the deteriorating situation of the Yemeni Federation of CCI. During the meeting, they reviewed the mismanagement in the federation and how to overcome it. The particular issues in focus were solving the problems faced by the private sector members related to the chamber, and the Chairman's mismanagement of the federa-

tion. At the end of the meeting, the Chamber representatives took the issue to the extent of withdrawing their membership in the Federation and maintain their right of filing lawsuits against the Federation for all wrong actions taken by the FCCI

**A Foreign Diplomat Depressed Sana'a** - A foreign diplomat expressed his disappointment to a local newspaper with the way by which the upcoming presidential elections is to be held in October. The foreign countries and the international organizations which support democracy in Yemen were hoping to see real competitive elections in which all parties present their programs and nominees in a way that can help enhance the democratic experience, the same source pointed out. It added that the fact that some of the meaningful parties opted to refrain from participating in the elections and chose nominees from other parties shows that the political crisis the country faces is still ongoing. This crisis creates an atmosphere of insincerity and mistrust, which is also enhanced by the state organizations that break the law and intervene so as not to give equal chances for more people to participate in the elections. The Islah party, the largest opposition party in Yemen, has nominated Ali Abdullah Saleh for the upcoming presidential elections.

**Al-Ghidhah Streets Asphalted**  
For the first time in its history, Al-Ghidhah streets are being asphalted. The Desert Line Company, owned by engineer Ahmad Fareed, started asphaltting Al-Ghidhah streets a week ago and

now it is about to finish. People in the city are all amazed at the quickness of finishing the project thanking engineer Ahmad Fareed and President Ali Abdullah Saleh for initiating this work. The same company is also asphaltting Shohain-Al-Ghidhah road. People hope that Mr. Ahmad Fareed will carry out the third project promised by the President Ali Abdullah Saleh which will connect Saihoun and Nashtoun with asphalt.

**Court Postpones Verdict of British Terrorists Trial**  
The verdict in the case of the eight British citizens facing terrorism charges had been delayed by the judge of the Primary Court of Aden on Thursday. In the previous sessions, the Prosecution had asked for the imposition of the maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment. Even though the Prosecutors indicated that there was no reason for delay, the defense lawyer stated that he expected the verdict to be announced on August 9. There were suspicions that the defendants' confessions were extracted by force. On the other hand, the group's leader had appealed the death sentenced issued on him by the court.

**Yemenia Lowers Rates by 40%**  
Yemenia announced that it is reducing its tariffs by 40% to Socatra, Se'yun, Al-Rayyan, and Al-Ghaidha. Yemenia had also announced that it has common rated its flight fees so that passengers on international routes with local legs, will not have to pay for the local legs. Yemenia's Marketing Managing, Abdullah

Al-Mutarrib explained it this way: "You can now travel from Taiz-Sanaa-London by only paying for the Sanaa-London fee, the Taiz-Sanaa fee will be free of charge." There is yet more good news, Yemenia flight tariffs to and from some of the other countries have been also reduced.

**Seminar on Yemeni-American Relations**  
A political seminar on the Yemeni-American relations was held last Wednesday, July 20, 1999, in the Center for Studies of the Future, headed by Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf. The seminar was attended by many members of the American community in Yemen, including a representative of the American Embassy, Ms. Angela Dickie, who gave a speech, in which she acclaimed the achievements and deeds of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

**Yemeni-American Survived a Hand Grenade**  
In a Baadan village, Ibb governorate, last week, six Yemenis with US. Citizenship, were the victims of a hand grenade attack while chewing qat. The assailant, A'adel Al-Bada'ani has already admitted that he had been pushed to commit this act by people, who he has identified to the security police department. Security police are still on the hunt after the accomplices. Fadh'al Al-Dailamy, an injured victim in the incident, is now under intensive treatment in Azal Hospital in Sanaa. In a phone call to the Yemen Times, Dailamy stated his disappointment at the indifference of the U.S. Embassy, which has yet to even send someone to see him.

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**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.

**Question:**  
Do you think that the media (TV, radio, official newspapers) will be used fairly for all presidential candidates?

**Results:**  
No. Even though it should, it is not doing so. It is only used for the current president. (80%)  
Yes, it is. (11%)  
I have no slight idea. (9%)

**This Week's Question:**  
Do you think that the presidential elections still has a meaning after rejecting all candidates by parliament, except an ally of the President?  
(\* Results Next Week)

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**Mr. Mohammed Ben Mirdas Al-Kahtany**

## “The Saudis and Arab investors should invest some of their money in Yemen but it depends on the Yemeni authority to create a good atmosphere.”

*Mr. Mohammed Ben Mirdas Al-Kahtany the new ambassador of Saudi Arabia, is a well-known figure who has taken different jobs in authority. He had his BA. in Economics and Political Science in 1972 from Alryade University. Immediately after his graduation he joined the Exterior Ministry in different capacities till he becomes the Ambassador-Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of Royal Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Yemen. He has also been an active participant in many international and regional conferences and meetings. . On the occasion of his coming, Mohammed Ben Sallam of the Yemen Times talked to him and filed the following interview.*

**Q: What was your personal impression when you were appointed as The ambassador here in Yemen?**

**A:** When I was informed of my appointment as an Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, I was filled with happiness and pride to have the trust of the leadership and work in such an important job. Our Embassy in Yemen is very much important and is given a special care and support from the Custodian of the Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ben Abdul Azeez and the prince, Abdulla Ben Abdul Azeez and the leadership.

**Q: How do you evaluate the Saudi-Yemeni relationships? and what are their future prospects?**

**A:** The Saudi-Yemeni relationships are deeply rooted in history. They can never be separated despite difficulties and hardships the brothers face. The two brotherly countries' relations are very strong despite some obstacles faced after the revolution in 1962. However, the kingdom has tried its best and has helped a lot to construct Yemen and to enhance its economy since 1970. That is best seen in different fields: education, health, economy, etc and in the continuous financial support to the Yemeni budget. The kingdom has also played an important role in the strengthening and improving the Yemeni military forces and providing it with modern weapons so much that are reckoned as

Yemen and Saudi Arabia one. To enhance and strengthen our relations the Supreme Saudi-Yemeni Cooperation Council and Office of Saudi Projects are established. However, the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in August 1990 and Yemen's attitude led to a tension between the two brotherly countries. But the two countries could solve that strain after the signing of the Agreement Note in 1995. Eventually, the relations have become normal and strong again. Now the two governments are trying to improve and solve all the obstacles facing them in different fields. This goes all-out to prove that future prospects of the two countries are very promising, and heading towards more welfare and prosperity, especially after settling the dispute of the borders between the two countries.

**Q: What are the tangible results of the delegations exchanged between the two countries? Do you think we could settle the borders dispute during this year?**

**A:** We hope to settle every thing down as soon as possible. However, as you know, solving borders problem in any part of the world needs time and willingness from the two sides. Besides, the Saudi-Yemeni borders are very old and complex as we have different tribes, lands very closed to each other. So all this needs time and patience. The increasing number of delegations between the two countries in recent times



shows that there is a bilateral interest to solve everything out. Therefore, I believe that we will be able to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles and reach an end to this issue.

**Q: Is there a possibility to provide Yemeni workers with more facilities? What are the obstacles you face in this regard?**

**A:** The Yemeni employment in Saudi Arabia is very normal and is dealt with according to the regulations and laws in the kingdom. There is quite a good number of Yemenis working in our country. They are around 700,000 workers, and they are still allowed to enter the kingdom. A clear example of this is the number of the official endorsements which reached to 23700 during 1998.

**Q: Are there any economic relations between the two countries?**

**A:** There are good economic relations which are a clear sign of the historic and neighboring relations. There is a number of economic projects and we hope to increase our projects in the near future. So we promise to do our best to enhance and strengthen the relations of the two countries in all fields including investment and trade. Although there is no mechanism to accelerate trade in the two countries, the kingdom is the first trade partner to Yemen. The Saudi-Yemeni trade cooperation is endorsed in the signed agreement between the two countries in 1995. It has been ratified by the Saudi Side but the Yemeni side has not yet done so. This agreement will do a lot to improve the trade cooperation between the two countries and will certainly facilitate investment.

**Q: Most of the Saudi investors have a tendency to invest their money far away in the West. Are there any plans to invest in Yemen? If not what are the obstacles faced?**

**A:** I agree with you that Saudi and Arab investors should invest some of their money in Yemen, but it rests upon the Yemeni authority to create a good atmosphere, proper circumstances, security, protection, etc. to attract the attention of these investors. We promise to encourage investment in Yemen

and there are already some Saudi projects implemented in Yemen. If these projects are to be successful, this will encourage other investors to come and invest in Yemen. Besides, Saudi investors invest in some Arab countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria and in the Gulf's cooperations council countries as well. The reason they have chosen these countries is that these countries have provided them with all kind of facilities and security. Regarding the obstacles they face you, Yemenis, know them better than me.

**Q: There are a number of conflicts and wars in countries near the Red Sea and in the African Horn which are supported by international and regional countries. What is the role of Saudi Arabia and Yemen in trying to solve these conflicts that negatively affect these neighbors?**

**A:** There are no obstacles in the cooperation of Saudi Arabia and Yemen to solve such tensions and conflicts, especially if there is a clear and agreed prospect. Saudi Arabia has attempted and have done its best to solve the conflict in Somalia and Jiddah agreement was signed. However, it has not

yet been implemented. Yemen and Egypt have also taken some steps. Besides, Yemen attempts to solve and settle disputes down in Eritrea and Ethiopia. However, all Arab attempts are looked upon carefully from the regional and international perspectives. The African Unity Organization, for example, considers this an intervention in African countries, even if these attempts are from some African-Arab countries such as the Egyptian efforts. However, this will not depress us and we will never stop doing anything that will help to solve these problems and conflicts in the proper time. Moreover, the conflict in the African Horn is a greater priority in the Yemeni exterior policy than other Arab Land countries. This is what has been stated by Mr. Abdul Kader Ba Gamal, the Deputy Prime Minister and Exterior Minister, in an interview in the 14th October newspaper on July 15 1999. I actually agree with him in this regard because these conflicts directly and negatively reflect their impact upon Yemen which present more obstacles and difficulties for the economic situation the government is trying to get rid of.

**Q: Regarding the Saudi-Yemeni security cooperation is there any progress?**

**A:** The cooperation between the two countries is going on in different fields especially in the security level. This is strengthened by the security agreement signed in 1996. The officials in the two countries are committed to it and state that the security of Yemen and Saudi Arabia is one.



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# Presidential Race Is On

## Statement of the Opposition

### A Statement Issued By The Opposition Coordination Council, OCC, On The Parliament's Confidence Vote Against The Council's Presidential Nominee, Moqbil

Consequent upon the politically motivated decision of the authorities to confiscate the rights of the oppositions to take part in the ensuing presidential race and thereby attempt to throttle the healthy democratic process, the OCC held a meeting on Wednesday 21/7/1999 to discuss the serious repercussions of this decision and resolved the following:

In view of their responsibilities for the country's security and stability, its growth and development, the opposition parties have unanimously decided to expertise their democratic option in which different political and social forces can run for government so as to achieve the desired social peace, put an end to circles of violence, and rescue the country from the rule of autocrats, the usurpers of power and the exploitation of wealth. In this respect, the opposition parties invite the ruling authorities to abide by the spirit of nationalism and practice fair-play in free and competitive elections, and to stop the farce of organizing illegitimate elections so as to preserve the anti-democratic status quo. In this way the chance of democratic progress that could have resulted from real elections can be ensured.

The move took place during the Parliament's session on Wednesday 21st of July 1999 bent upon knocking down the nomination of Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, the opposition presidential nominee. This has clearly disclosed the State's determination to completely tighten its fist on Power. Having failed to reinstate the pre-unity totalitarian regime and autocratic dictatorship by using force during the war of 1994, the ruling authorities are just doing that under the name of democracy. This move has thoroughly unmasked the real face of the government and brought into light their false claims of accepting democracy and the peaceful exchange of power. This move has also underlined the state's scornful disregard to the national unity and the untold suffering of the masses, thereby announcing its final resolution which can only mean the following:

- Demolishing the foundations of the country's political system as guaranteed in the Article No. 5 of the Constitution which states that "The political system is based on political and partisan plurality for effecting the peaceful exchange of power". But what has happened actually means that the political arena has become a one-man domain as the opposition's nominee is out. The formal competition between the President's and one of his subordinates in the PGC, does not alter the fact that the PGC is competing with itself, a thing that can only happen in an anti-democratic, one-party and totalitarian regime.

- This move has exposed the hidden anti-democratic intentions of the State and has clearly pointed out the extremely limited democratic margin which is granted by the regime itself so as to hide its real totalitarian nature. In this context, the aim of screening the opposition's nominee is an outspoken expression of the totalitarian tendency, for this nominee's agenda carries to the people an effective plan that can deliver the country from corruption, fear and destitution through a new vision that looks forward to new future horizons and reveals the real reasons for the people's suffering as a result of looting the public treasury and the unlawful practices that have depressingly exhausted the country's resources and the people's potentials. Moreover, the opposition's nominee was the only serious competitor, hence the decision to rule him out of the competition's arena in an additional regressive step on democracy.

- This move clearly indicates the fear of the authorities to the people's will to freely select their rulers. It also highlights the ruling party's rejection of democratic principles embodied in the country's Constitution, including the principle that "The people are the owners of the Authority and its only source". It also insolently encroaches upon the constitutional provisions contained in Articles no. 4, 24, 40, 41 and 42 related to the freedom of choice and opinion in a fair and honest election, and the principle of equal citizenship and opportunities among the people. These Articles and other similar ones have been crushed with this move, the final result of which is that a considerable segment of the population will be denied the chance to opt for the candidate who can best represent their interests.

The move which the Parliament adopted was only a theatrical farce reinstating a political decision taken by the ruling group. Not only does this move stand as an aggression against the oppositions' rights, but it also shows how the power in this country has been completely usurped under the name of democracy and through "the people's house of representatives".

To intimidate the MPs, the Parliament forced each member to put his name and signature on the voting card, thereby preventing them to freely practice their constitutional rights. In the face of such reprehensible behavior, there were a number of upright and outspoken MPs who stood against the unfair practices. Those particular members have indeed played a role model in fighting political terrorism and will remain a source of pride for every honest citizen in this country.

The statement concludes by expressing condemnation of this anti-democratic stance that actually confiscates the people's freedom of choice, and make of the entire process a mere game in which elections are a mere eye-wash. This stance will eventually render the ensuing elections meaningless as it rules out the fundamental right of fair competition and the principle of peaceful exchange of power. The statement calls upon the Yemeni people to be aware of the grave consequence of such stance for which the ruling party remains absolutely responsible.

The Opposition Coordination Council intends to hold further meetings to chalk out further strategies and act accordingly.

## What the PGC Says

To know the view point of the PGC, Yemen Times interviewed Sultan Al-Barkani, Chairman of the PGC Parliamentary Block.

**Q: What is your view point regarding the Parliament's no confidence vote for Mr. Obad?**

**A:** The PGC never promised Mr. Ali Saleh Obad nor any one else any thing in regard to this issue. I think the YSP's non-participation in 1997 parliamentary elections and their negative views and attitudes towards the outcomes of these elections are the real reasons for the recent development. So it is quite natural that Mr. Obad should fail to get the Parliament's confidence for two reasons: first, the YSP is not represented in the parliament at all and second the YSP still expresses disregard to the voters' choice in the 1997 elections. There is also Mr. Obad's Agenda which refers to the issue of national reconciliation - a thing that practically means the abolition of the existing institutions, including the parliament itself. Now can you tell me who on earth can recommend its own destruction? As far as I know, the PGC did not receive any thing from Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, nor from the Opposition Coordination Council in regard to his issue.

**Q: There are a number of political observers who believe the issue of the South will still be alive during the elections. Your comment?**

**A:** This is absolutely baseless. The candidate running for the presidency will not be the candidate for the North or the South. He will be the candidate for the Republic of Yemen. Those who think in this way are trying in vain to turn history back, to the pre-unity era. This will never happen today, nor tomorrow nor anytime. The issue is not based on south-north lines, for when Ali Abdullah Saleh runs the race he targets both voters in the south as well as in the north. The same thing holds good for Ali Saleh Obad as well had he succeeded in getting the parliament's confidence.

**Q: During the confidence voting, it was noticed that Parliament presidium directed the process in such a way that every member has to put his/her name and signature on the voting card. Isn't this kind of illegal?**

**A:** No, the confidence vote is not a secret balloting thing. We are dealing here with the motion of confidence. It's often done in an open way. And every body has the right to make sure of the numbers of members that cast their votes. Every member had the chance to recommend whomever he wanted to. There were no prohibitions or restrictions on the process. So, we found that all the nominees including Mr. Obad were voted. There was no influence from the top, nor from anywhere else.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** One thing I would like to stress. The process in the parliament went according to the established democratic norms. I hope that our brothers in the opposition will understand just that. I wish more particularly from Mr. Ali Saleh Obad and those around him to abide by the rules of the game and try not to hold the PGC accountable for what happened. The PGC have their own nominee and as far as I know we haven't heard of any party in the world which work for getting his rival to the post, have we????!!!

In short, let us hope that the YSP leaders and the opposition figures will try to dispense with ideas that do not comply with the true spirit of democracy.

## Najeeb's Statement

The only presidential candidate who had qualified to run against Ali Abdullah Saleh in the presidential elections is Mr. Najeeb Kahtan Al-Sha'abi. Najeeb is the son of the late Qahtan Al-Shaabi, the first President of the former South Yemen. He is a well known member of parliament and a member of the permanent committee of the People's General Congress. He is also a strong ally of President Saleh.

After qualifying to run for the elections, Mr. Najeeb gave the following brief statement about his campaign and future plans regarding the elections:

*"I would like first to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues in the Parliament for their confidence they reposed in me to run for 1999 presidential elections.*

*When I decided to run for these elections, I was motivated by a number of factors strongly related to the basic issues and interests of the country and the people. We all look forward to the day when Yemen could become a modern state in which every citizen can enjoy freedom, security and justice. On that day our country shall become a strong and prosperous state ruled by Science and characterized by the noble human values. The accomplishment of these objectives is an arduous task and requires the efforts of all in this country. Before that, a social and political harmony should be attained so as to achieve an integrated outlook that can face the challenges of the changing the destiny of the people of Yemen."*

*"The economic decline and deterioration, resulting from the speedy growth of population, will definitely lead the country in the next few years into serious problems and we must come up with fundamental solutions to star: handling these serious issues.*

*Let it be known that the last thing we need today is political bickerings or disputes. They can do no good to the country. Yet I am willing to be involved in any serious discussion that would bring us together to work for the development of this country."*

*"Our country has a lot of potential of human resources. We have to bank upon the wisdom and intellect of the people so as to best utilize their capabilities. During my election campaign I will introduce to the public the ideas and objectives included in my agenda and I hope that the race will take a sublime, intellectual course and that all runners will be able to enjoy equal opportunities. I take the opportunity here to invite all voters to positively make use of this opportunity so as to come out with useful results to serve the interest of this country."*

On another topic, Mr. Najeeb Kahtan Al-Sha'abi told Reuters that he would work towards giving women full political and social rights. He also stated that launching a nationwide campaign against the habit of chewing qat, would be his top priority.

## Opposition's Press Conference

### Snapshots from the opposition's Press conference

**In the press conference, held on Thursday, July 22, the question of the parliament's no confidence vote was the main focus of attention.**

At the beginning, Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, the opposition presidential nominee, was asked to point out the last sentence in the opposition statement which calls upon the people to be aware of the risks and responsibilities ahead and asked them whether this call could mean the boycotting of the elections?

Mr. Obad answered by saying "When we have applied for nomination in the parliament, we certainly have an agenda which we hope would get the parliament's approval. Now that the no confidence vote has already been taken, we shall present the same agenda directly to the masses of voters and we would modify our plans according to the people's reac-

tions. I think it is too early to talk about boycotting the elections.

Mr. Ali Saif Hassan, the Nasserite's Assistant Secretary General, answered the question on whether there has been a previous agreement between the opposition parties and the ruling PGC with regard to the PGC's support in the parliament's vote. He said:

"All of us know that Yemen is passing through the post-war era, a crucial period in our modern history, which requires that we overstep formalities and extend the hand of cooperation among us so as to achieve the desired national reconciliation. In this context, we understand that our basic duty is to take part in the ensuing elections as a good step in the right direction of reconciliation. We also think that the ruling party will provide the minimum requirements to make of the forthcoming experience a successful one. Now they have failed to do so."

On whether there are unannounced objectives for such a move, Mr. Jarullah Omer, Chairman of the Political

Department in the YSP, said "we are aware that the rulers would not like to allow us to publicly broadcast our agenda through the official electronic media like the radio or TV. In fact they are afraid that our agenda would be publicly known. We believe that a political decision to preserve authority, to monopolize wealth and to control the official media has been taken from the top. As far as the Parliament is concerned, the issue is not purely personal. The essence of the matter is the wish to reject the others and their ideas all at once." Mr. Jarullah Omer summarized the whole issue by affirming that "the nominee of the ruling party has chosen the one who should compete with him. It is as if someone is competing with his shadow. This indeed violates the relevant Constitutional article which dictates that the parliament should at least recommend two runners, which means two different agendas and therefore, two different competitors. What is happening now is that we have one candidate competing with his shadow."

# Democracy Needs a Conceptual Rehabilitation

By: **Ahmed Mohammed Al-Garady,  
Taiz**

A close examination and professional research is urgently needed to scrutinize the gap between democratic values and their absence in the Arab world. To look over it deeply, let's reveal to the reader some distinct points in this regard.

In fact, humanity witnessed various kinds of political and social systems. As man became powerful and efficient to control the nature, a need arose to regulate the interaction between man and the nature at one point and between man and man at the other. Subsequent chain of political authorities came into existence to establish the ideology of the ruling power. Generally speaking, mankind experienced the natural, autocratic, social-contract and secular authorities.

Needless to confirm that the ideological affiliations and personal crane can't lead to convincing and objective results when tackling this issue. It is not easy to treat theme of democracy in scientific and general detail. Therefore, I would not concern myself with historical accumulation and

intellectual heritage. Our writers seem to create illogical contradictions when they discuss the democratic evolution, and hold a strong ground on this claim; Let me provide you with some evidence.

At the beginning, non of us can deny that democracy includes a lot of pivotal ingredients such as the right to select the ruler, the freedom of the market, the intellectual and political tolerance, pluralism, the rights of a equal citizenship and so on. Repeatedly, our thinkers magnify these democratic values and marginalize their manifestations in the practical reality.

To make it sufficiently clear, one should study the structure of the Islamic nations. The structure of the political systems in the Islamic world is still based on the hierarchical authorities according to blood, tribal neighborhood relations; Logically, such a graduation of power of the ruling system possesses forceful institutions to educate people according to one tract-mind philosophy, leading to the absence of the intellectual and political plural-

ism. A mono-cultural society always implants in the mind of citizen a one-directed mentality which always results in a negative definite stereotyping when dealing with other dissident social forces of the civil society. However, in such a case, one can not assure the evolution.

Undoubtedly, the evolution of the civil society was due to the great success and victory of the bourgeoisie class against the traditional feudal monarchs and kings. The advent of this class brought a news style of the social production and the political reforms. Likewise, the democratic practices came into existence after subsequent revolutions to cut down the unlimited power of the absolute authority. Similarly advocates and supporters of the democratic values, either with a long term or emerging roots should pay a special attention with deep understanding to the scientific achievements. Science and philosophy have the proportion of the lion, bringing about a tremendous victory of the democratic values. Scientists and philosophers worked diligently to face new ideas and concepts, dominating over the untrue and traditional ones.

The Arabic writers always neglect this critical area. Science can not be kept away from democracy. In other words, one can conclude that the democratic philosophy does not monopolize the reality, giving a wide range of intellectual differences and political pluralism. The western discoveries of different cultures, civilizations, languages enrich the inherent philosophy of democracy. Let me not divert our interests to other themes.

As already said, democracy deals with values, problems, and also general cases according to the scientific power of resource. It employs the scientific method to diagnose and foretell the suggestive solutions of the social problems. This epistemological victory provides man with a sense of creativity and invention against the human apathy and the intellectual stagnation.

The democratic nations are indebted to the brave reformists and the wise thinkers for their resistance against all kinds of the untrue and deceptive beliefs and traditions. They bravely pave the way for social progress and development. In fact, this process is not just ridiculous slogans but it has taken a long course of time. Martin Luther, the leader of Protestantism, John Coluin, John Roles, Luke, Rousseau, etc. made sustained efforts to elucidate the concepts of the social contract state. Actually, it is not my objective to throw light on this aspect, I merely want to explain how long the process has lasted since then up to now.

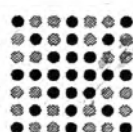
Actually, a short article can not treat the issue of the subsequent events of the democratic changes. However it is good to be aware about it's basic background. Now, let me mention some obstacles in the process of our democratization. People should understand that we glorify the success of the other civilizations. We do not throw away the sublime values of our

spiritual store and the Islamic heritage. We just motivate our societies to recover its healthy mechanism to deal with the current problems. All of us can not deny that the freedom of intellect, faith and conscience is one of the significant pillars in Islam. It is not our aim to discuss this area in this presentation.

Considering my point of view from this perspective, all people, the ruling and the ruled, should be aware that freedom is not a gift from anybody. It is a natural right. So politician must not use it to remind us repeatedly about their patriotic achievements. At another point, the political differences and conflicts must change its the traditional method which is intended to neglect the rights and destroy the dissident voices. Such conflicts should be changed into a fruitful source of accountability and transparency. Rights of all parties should be respected to avoid the immoral sequences of the destructive violence. The activity of enlightenment plays an effective role to change the attitudes of the conflicting forces. The emerging evolution of the civil society should be allowed to come into existence naturally without the interference, persecution and hegemony of the ruling power. The evolution of the civil society in

Yemen is the unquestionable solution to establish the state of democracy. Unless all forces work hand in hand to alleviate the suffering of the people, things might get worse and worse. Dreams will change into nightmares. Therefore, the forces of the civil society should not be adopted by the despotic system of the ruling power in the Arab world. In fact, a true belief of pluralism can create a collective understanding to teach people the invaluable art of dialogue. To maintain the peace of mind, all sides should grasp the moral dimensions of the tolerance principle, issued in the bill of human rights. People should not be classified according to believers or disbelievers secessionists or unitarians; men or women, slaves and masters to protect the equal rights of citizenship.

Journalism should be respected regardless of the political affiliations. The freedom of the press should be protected from the military censorship and the immoral torture and intimidation of the persecutors, violators and law breakers. All authorities namely, the executive, the legislative and judiciary should be completely separated and independent to achieve their missions and responsibilities in accordance with the sovereignty of the national constitution. If a nation cannot provide its citizens with the mentioned values, it is impossible to be called democratic and it won't be so. Can we cope with that? I think it is the right time to start practical reforms. Is there anybody who hears our outcries? Time or Yemen Times will inform us. Let's wait and see.



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**Christopher Ward to Yemen Times:  
"if Yemen is launching a war against corruption in the society, we are your partners"**

Every country that aims at prosperity and progress pays its full attention to economy. Yemen is one of these countries that has started an economic reform in order to get out the present economic crises. The World Bank has played an important role in this. Ismaeel Al-Ghabri of the Yemen Times talked to Christopher Ward, the Principal Operations Officer, Agriculture and Water Sector, and filed the following interview:

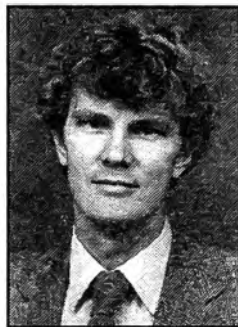
**Q: You have attended many seminars about the shortage of water here in Yemen. Do you think the economic reforms can help the implementing the will of the world bank to help Yemen?**

**A:** The world bank exists to help its member countries. In each country we try to understand with the government and other departments what the best system of economic management for that country is and then if the government has a strong economic reform program, then the world bank will support it with advice and with lending operations and that is what we are doing in Yemen. We believe that the government here have achieved enough reforms adjustments and that it is prepared to take the decisions necessary to make the economy on the right track. Therefore, we are backing Yemen to the absolute maximum. We are increasing our lending to

this country considerably because of the good economic reform program.

**Q: Many high ranks personalities visit Yemen from time to time. What kind of strategy do you think Yemen should concentrate on in order to face problems such as the shortage of water, food, environment?**

**A:** It is true that in Yemen and in many other countries a lot of problems and sometimes it becomes difficult to prioritize. But we believe that there are some very important areas that this country is concentrating on and we want to support the government in to the development of this country. Some of them are in the education, health, social protection programs which are important and is a priority for us in our landing program. Secondly the restructuring and reform of government services and the development of the private sector is also very important which the government is focusing now. We also support this very strongly in our program. The third area is water because water is the life of this country and there is a very little of it and it is becoming more and more scarce. The government has begun to take some good decision about changes in the way water is managed. We support



these changes very much and want to invest them. So we see these three areas as a priority: the socio-human development factor, the reform of public services and promotion of the private sector, and better use of water resources.

This is what our program focuses on.

**Q: The World bank is playing a vital role in the development in Yemen. What are the projects that are implemented and in which governorates?**

**A:** At the moments we have around 25 projects on implemented in every sector particularly concentrated in the rural sector, agriculture and environmental development, human resources sector, education, health, supporting the social fund and other projects and generating activities. We also have a big program in infrastructure for roads, airports, water supply. Finally we have projects and programs in economic reform. We are supporting public sector, management adjustment, administrative reform, privatization, and legal reform. So we have 25 projects in all these different areas. At the moment the value of the bank failure is about \$600,000,000. For the next three years we just completed

our discussions with the government about our strategy for lending over the next three years. We have agreed with the government that we will have a high case and a base case; a high case will entail lending up to \$200,000,000 each year for the next three years and will support about 45 projects each year in the sectors previously mentioned. If economic management goes well and the implementation is good then we will continue at this high level for the next three years. But if problems are not seen at the moment such as problems of economic management then we will pursue the base case which has low level of lending and few projects. At the moment we can say that Yemen is in the high case because of its high and good performance.

**Q: How do you see the performance of government sectors? and Are there any plans to get the private sector invest with the world bank?**

**A:** The world bank has an organization called the international financial corporation which invests with the private sector operators. They have about one or two projects in Yemen at the moment. As far as the World bank is concerned our main area regarding the private sector is to help the government widen the framework for private investment, to help the government to define what it's role and what's the role of the private sector so that the promotion of the private sector will be very much accelerated. The World Bank does not normally invest directly with the private sector but we work with the government to enable the private sector to

have the ability to invest and to make sure the resources are available for it. Privatization projects will, of course, help the government to transfer some assets or enterprises which are within its state hands progressively to the hands of the private sector. This probably is intended to increase the efficiency of these assets and therefore the national interests.

**Q: Do you think the economic reforms of the world bank can help the majority of the people and not only a specific class?**

**A:** Yes, very much. Yemen was in a very difficult situation because over the last ten years Yemen has had several shocks coming from outside including the problems from the gulf war, the costs of the unification, the costs of the civil war and much recently the fall in the price of oil. Those really have affected Yemen very negatively and it has been everybody concern to reduce the impacts of these shocks on the poor sections of the society so our advice to the government as it has always been is first of all to reduce or eliminate subsidies applied to the whole population and to make sure where they can be applied. They help the poor parts and not everybody. Secondly to put in place a social protection network such as the social fund or the public works projects which creates employment, wealth for the poor people. Thirdly, our advice to the government has been to promote very much investments and private sector developments so that there is some economic growth in the country because if there is no eco-

nomical growth you can never eliminate poverty. The government of Yemen is very much going along these lines and that is one of the reasons why we are supporting it so strongly. Our advice to government is also to study hard and to look carefully to see where the impacts will fall and to make sure that segments of the population is actually helped during the period of adjustment.

**Q: Does the policy of the bank aim at eradicating the corruption in the regime system of the government?**

**A:** We are very much aware of this problem which exists in many countries. We always say that our clients are the whole nation; there are not any particular group or class. In case of Yemen the whole population of Yemen are the people that we want to help and support. The World Bank has a very strong anti-corruption policy and all of our staff have been systematically trained in how to identify corruption and how to deal with it when it arises. We also believe that the solution is in identifying individual cases of corruption as they arise and various cases of corruption in business and also to help the country to build the instruments of good governance, the legal, administrative, police systems. Above all we believe that transparency in public life is essential, good public accounting, independent judiciary, information, free press, open parliament all of these things contribute to the elimination of corruption and if Yemen is launching a war against corruption in the society, we are your partners.



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# The New About Viral Hepatitis Epidemic



Dr. Mohammed Hammed Alhadad Aden

The ultimate goal of any process of health development is to enable people to reach a specific level where they will be able to participate actively in the construction of the social and economic life of their societies. We can only achieve this through ethical application of the primary meaningful health care in a way that is available to all and, especially to those more liable to danger. So every one should take an active role in the effort to promote health and take care of it in a very organized and constructive way. Therefore we have always, on all occasions, emphasized the need to maintain such guidelines. The aim of this article is to stress the importance of improving and enhancing health care principles, so as to raise the people's awareness of the immunization process of the viral hep-

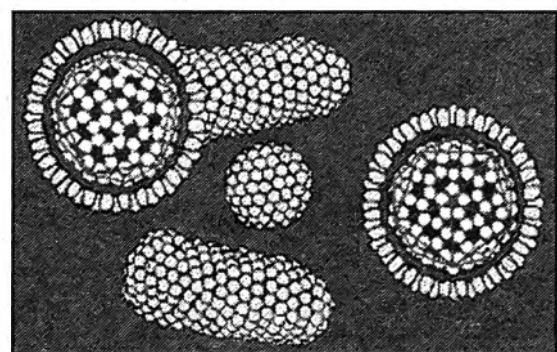
atitis. What is this disease? How does it spread? What are its symptoms and dangerous complications? Are there any precautions that can be used to stop this disease?

**THE DISEASE:**

Hepatitis is caused by a virus which one may contract through the blood or through the other liquids in the body. This disease is very dangerous. It haunts the minds of people since there is no cure for it until now.

**INCUBATION:**

It is the period between contracting the disease until the appearing of the symptoms. It is esti-



imated to occur from 45-160 days but in most cases it is from 60-90 days.

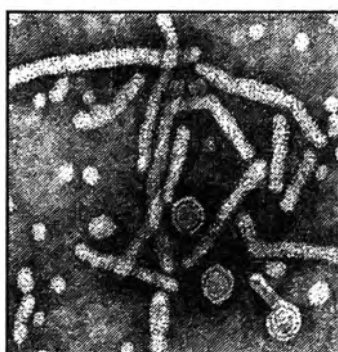
**EPIDEMIC ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:**

The specialists in this field

divide the world to three epidemic sections: high, average and low regarding the spread of this virus. There is a strong concern about environment and vaccination for protection from the disease. In fact, according to the number of people affected and the magnitude of the spread of the disease strategies are devised for protection.

**HOW THE DISEASE IS SPREAD:**

It happens in the following ways: in the transfusion of the blood which already contains the virus, when giving injections, using sharp tools that are used before, cupping, tattooing and by



unclean wounds. It also happens when there are unsecured births and when having illegal sexual intercourse. The horrible end of all this, is a dangerous disease that leads at the end to certain death.

**SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE:**

The symptoms of this disease are fever, colic accompanied by throwing up, loss of appetite, and sometimes pains in the joints. This scarcely develops into the appearance of jaundice.

**WHEN YOU ARE AFFECTED:**

When some one contracts this virus he may get a terrible hepatitis that will result in his death within few days or weeks. He may also recover soon and get immunity. In extreme or chronic cases, the liver may become cirrhotic or lead to cases.

**PROTECTION:**

For protection we can follow these procedures: taking care of our environment and keep it always clean, taking vaccinations, making sure that blood does not carry this virus, not using injections more than once, getting rid of sharp tools, antisepticize medical tools, not using others' tools and obtaining from illegal sexual intercourse and use of condoms should be used.

**HOW TO FIGHT THIS DISEASE:**

This depends upon health organizations that are specialized in this field. It also differs from one place to another according to the size of the problem, the number of the people affected, the spread of the disease and the main districts it is spread in.

It is worth mentioning that the International health organization aims at including this disease among the six children's diseases that should be vaccinated. This is why we see it supporting programs that carry out this mission with a humanitarian aim to protect children of the world and take care of their health. The target groups are the medical group, health group, technical group, working group, all those carry the virus, emergency team, police, fire brigade, workers of the municipality, patients whom have nephritic washing, those who have sex in an illegal way, those addicted to narcotics and those interested in traveling around the world.

**PROCEDURES TO ENSURE HEALTH PROTECTION:**

- 1- Specify those who are more liable to get this disease.
- 2- Launch informative campaign aimed at making people aware of this disease and provide vaccinations for the affected people.
- 3- Organizing the vaccination process by making colored cards for each age group and making files for the vaccination process.
- 4- The vaccination should be either in the thigh or in the hand's upper muscle. The infant whose mother is affected should be vaccinated after 12 hours of their birth while those whose mothers

are not affected should have the first dose after a month of his birth, the second after a month of the first dose and the third after six months of the first dose.

- 5- The vaccinations should be kept and carried by vaccination-keepers with bars of ice within 4-8 c°. They should also be kept in special fridges.

**RESULTS AND GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:**

- 1- Vaccination gives immunity for about seven weeks or more.
- 2- Vaccination gets 90% positive results of the overall number of vaccinated cases.
- 3- The complications resulted from vaccination are simple and soon disappears.
- 4- Regarding the number of doses there two opinions: the first says that all doses should be taken all. The second opinion indicates that only one dose is to be taken. Statistics shows that 23% of pregnant women and 14% of children of in different ages are affected by this virus.

**GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:**

- 1- "YES" for vaccination when the results of the check-ups are negative regarding Anti-HBc, HBsAg and Anti-HBs, HBsAg.
- 2- There is no need for the vaccination when the result of the check-ups is different from the above.
- 3- Health organizations emphasize that vaccination is safe and has not any dangerous complications. The focus is on the children, pregnant mothers. The vaccination is available in all hospitals in Aden and there are also well qualified doctors who are taking care of this.

**One Word to Describe the Conditions in Dar Al-Salam Asylum in Hodeidah:**

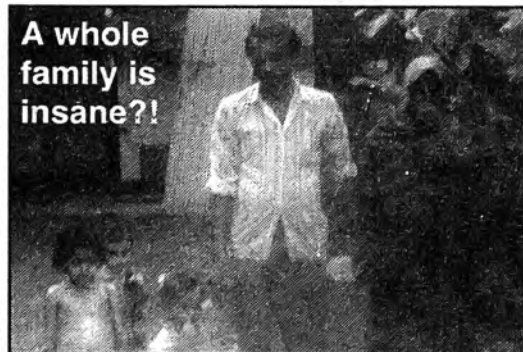
# Inhuman!

During my visit to Hodeidah and in one of my strolls in the city's streets, I found out two hospitals carrying similar names. One was Al-Salam Hospital and the other Dar Al-Salam Asylum. So I decided to drop by the latter and there I was indescribably shocked. Many innocent and poor people have been mercilessly locked in a prison-like asylum or hospital as the officials call where only overcrowdedness can suffocate, let alone the scathing heat known in Hodeidah during summer. Among these innocent creatures, there are some who are mentally and/or psychologically disturbed patients, but once they are thrown into this house, they



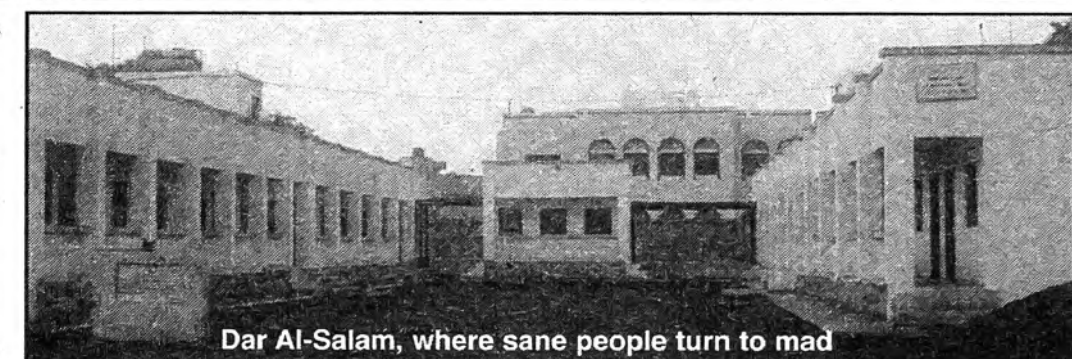
here just to be dispensed with. In order to know more about these victims, I talked to some of them and came up with the following reports: Ridhwan Mohamed Hassan, 32, has been in the "hospital" for three months. He says that he has been suffering from psychiatric disease due to family problems and since he came into the hospital he has been administered some medication and so far he feels better as he puts it himself. He only complains that some of the

Abdullah Mohammed Mastor, 55, says that he was forced into the house by sheer mistake. As he explains, more than a month ago, he wanted to go to Al-Salam Hospital to see a dermatologist ( he was then suffering from a skin disease.) On his way to the hospital he met a police officer who took him to Dar Al-Salam instead. Mr. Mastor has been in this place for over a month waiting for the officer to take him out of this place and praying that his stay would not become long. Abdulrahman, one of the house



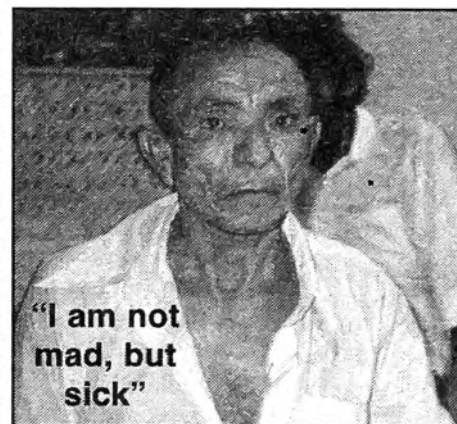
A whole family is insane?!

"prisoners" as he would call it himself, says that he does not know why he is in there. He complains of no ailment and hitherto has received no medical attention at all. His story began last Ramadhan when one of his



Dar Al-Salam, where sane people turn to mad

neighbors, Ahmed Al-Forn, brought him to the house and left him there. He pleaded that his case should be attended to and his suffering ended to enable him to go home and take care of his kids and family. He described the people of the house as monsters.

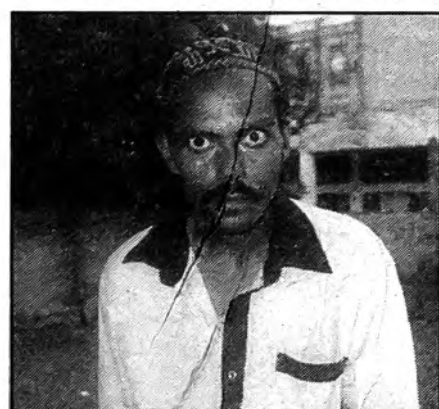


"I am not mad, but sick"

However, there are some amongst the house mates who give some credit to Dar Al-Salam. One of them is a medical graduate student who urged me to convey his advice to the young people in Yemen to become aware of the deadly consequences of drug addiction. He also expressed sympathy with the helpless mates of the house and said that many of them are put in the wrong place. In some cases I find it hard to believe or understand. For example, I came across a whole family consisting of the two parents, three kids and one on his/her way as the mother is expecting a baby. When I asked

the father about their story, he said he had no idea why they were there. He said he was the first to be admitted in this place and later on was able to manage the admittance of the rest of the family. "Now I feel quite comfortable," he concluded. There are many women inside the house. One of them, an old woman was crying for want of clothes. I noticed that many of them were wearing ragged and dirty garb. In short the situation for most cases in this house is inhumanly disgraceful. They just want to be treated as humans and are waiting for someone who can bring forth their cases and defend their basic rights of life and dignity. We in the Yemen Times urgently request Human Rights Commissions and Activists to embrace this important issue and start with a field inspection visit to Dar Al-Salam house to see for themselves how human beings are turned into monsters.

hard on him, specially after he tried to stop using drugs, he was taken to Dar Al-Salam for treatment. That was two months ago and now he feels a lot better. He admits that he received special treatments and has his own private room, though he pays YR. 700 per day, excluding medications expenses. He sincerely urged me to convey his advice to the young people in Yemen to become aware of the deadly consequences of drug addiction. He also expressed sympathy with the helpless mates of the house and said that many of them are put in the wrong place. In some cases I find it hard to believe or understand. For example, I came across a whole family consisting of the two parents, three kids and one on his/her way as the mother is expecting a baby. When I asked

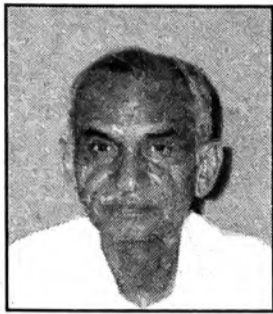


might suffer new afflictions. It looks is if they were brought

vate the ailing conditions of the patients.



# A Study On the Accent of Yemenis About: Arabic (ج) And English (G)



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For the Purposes of this paper Yemeni learners of English today have been grouped into two sets.

The first set comprises the learners who systematically replace the English phoneme /dʒ/ by /g/ in spoken English; conversely, the second set consists of those who substitute /dʒ/ for /g/ and do it systematically.

Obviously, the learners face a problem in learning these two English phonemes, and teacher of English has to devise proper pedagogical procedures to help the learners to acquire them efficiently and at minimum cost.

With this end in view, I have tried to locate the source of the error, and it seems that the source lies in Arabic spoken in Yemen. The search for the source was motivated by the assumption that errors can be effectively dealt with once they have been correctly diagnosed.

First, I intend to point out a curious parallelism between (ج) and (G) in respect of their articulation and pronunciation in Arabic and English, respectively. More interesting, I intend to show how Arabic (ج) and English (G) interact at present in the vocal tract of Arabic learners of English in Yemen.

I shall begin with Arabic (ج)

## Arabic (ج)

ج is a graph in Arabic Script. It represents two sound values today: (ج muattasha = /dʒ/ الجيم المعطشة); (ج gaer muattasha = /g/ الجيم غير المعطشة).

I understand that in classical Arabic only (ج muattasha = /dʒ/) occurs, but in Modern Colloquial Arabic used in Yemen both (ج muattasha = /dʒ/) as well as (ج gaer muattasha = /g/) occur.

Broadly speaking, ج is similar to the sound of the first consonant in, for example, JAPAN in English, and ج is similar to the sound of the first consonant in, for example, GOOD in English. In terms of articulatory phonetics, ج may be described as voiced plato-alveolar affricate, similarly, in terms of articulatory phonetics, ج may be described as voiced velar plosive.

To the best of my information, ج is older than ج; ج is a later innovation. Some scholars are of the view that it is in Egyptian Arabic that this innovation first originated. Consequently, in Modern Egyptian Arabic, the innovation has assumed the proportion of a thoroughgoing, unconditioned sound change replacing ج by ج in all phonetic environments. In other words, in modern Egyptian Arabic, phonetically speaking, voiced plato-alveolar affricate has been replaced in all contexts by voiced velar plosive. That is to say, ج has been wiped completely out of the language; it no longer forms part of the consonant system of Egyptian Arabic, and this innovation has spread to some other parts of the large Arabic speech community, for example, in the Republic of Yemen, in Taiz in particular, ج has been replaced by ج just as Egyptian Arabic. It appears that, in general, the coastal speech communities in Yemen from Hodeidah to Aden use on ج in their speech. However, Sana'a retains the older sound value of ج, and Hadramout has reportedly still another value for ج. I should add that the variation in the articulation or pronunciation of Arabic ج I have noted in the Arabic spoken in the Republic of Yemen is not based on any systematic dialect survey of the region. In fact, I do not even know if any such survey has at all been carried out in this area. Therefore, whatever I say in this regard is based on personal observation (which is much too limited) and some information from naive native speakers of Arabic in the Republic of Yemen. But there does seem to be any doubt about the fact that Arabic ج has come to have today two sound values in modern colloquial Arabic, namely ج and ج.

Indeed, these two sound values of ج may be said to have given rise to two dialects of modern Colloquial Arabic: ج dialect and ج dialect. For example, Iraqi Arabic has retained ج and is thus different from Egyptian Arabic, which has replaced ج by ج. Moreover, as the example of Yemeni Arabic shows, in one and the same linguistic area, these two dialectal variants may co-exist without impairing in the least mutual intelligibility between the speakers of these two dialects.

It is tempting at this point to speculate on the factor(s) intrinsic to the phonological system of classical Arabic that might have rigged off the sound change of ج into ج.

In the phonological system of classical Arabic there is a sound represented by the graph ك= English K. In terms of articulatory phonetics, it is a voiceless velar plosive; it is a sound similar to the first consonant sound in the English word CUP. But it has no voiced counterpart; that is, it lacks Voiced Velar Plosive a sound similar to [g] as repre-

sented by the first consonant sound in the English word GOOD.

Besides, as noted above, there is only ج in the phonological system of classical Arabic; it appears to be, in articulatory phonetic terms, a voiced plato-alveolar affricate. But it has no Voiceless counterpart; that is, the phonological system of classical Arabic lacks voiceless Plato-Alveolar Affricate, a sound similar to the one represented by (ch) as in the English word CHINA.

In other words, there are two, so to speak, holes or gaps in the system of consonants in classical Arabic and they disturb the symmetry of the consonant system based on opposition between voiced and voiceless pairs. For example, ج pairs off with د, ص, with ض, with ذ, and ج with ح.

To be sure, the symmetry is not absolute, for there is in classical Arabic, as much as in modern colloquial Arabic, the isolated (b), voiced bilabial plosive unpaired with (p), voiceless bilabial plosive. But we are not concerned with this pair at the moment; we shall talk about only the first two holes in the system that we have mentioned earlier, viz., the absence of /g/ and /t/ in it.

Thus, the two empty slots in the phonological system of classical Arabic make the system slightly skewed. And it is this skewness that, in my opinion, may be said to provide the systemic impulse for the change of ج into ج. Furthermore, it has been argued here that this change has brought about two other changes. It has brought into being a new consonant sound not present in classical Arabic namely, ج voiced velar plosive. Secondly, it has eliminated the unpaired isolated ج from the phonological system of some dialects of modern colloquial Arabic referred to above.

The emergence of ج, voiced velar plosive filled one of the empty slots we have noted by neatly pairing off with the voiceless velar plosive as represented by (ك=K) in Arabic. And by the same token, the second empty slot stood erased; the voiced palatal affricate, ج was eliminated from the phonological system of some of the dialects of Arabic. In other words, henceforth there would not exist any consonant affricative in manner at the plato-alveolar point of articulation in the dialects in which the change of ج into ج has been accomplished. The description of Arabic ج given above seems necessary and sufficient for the purposes indicated at the beginning of this write-up.

Next, we propose to describe those aspects of English (G) which seem to us comparable to Arabic ج and which help in highlighting the parallelism between Arabic ج and English (G).

## English (G)

(G) is a graph in English writing system with two sound values. The sound values are (1) G muattasha = /dʒ/, and (2) ج gaer muattasha = /g/. We hear (1) in English words like gentle, large, gesture, general, and many others; we hear (2) in get, good, go, girl, glad, grass, gun and many others. In terms of articulatory phonetics (1) i.e. /dʒ/ is a voiced plato-alveolar affricate, and (2) i.e. /g/ is a voiced velar plosive. Now, the parallelism between Arabic ج and English (G) is quite clear and may be stated as follows: Arabic ج has two sound values, namely, (1) ج muattasha = /dʒ/, and (2) ج gaer muattasha = /g/; like wise, English (G) has two sound values, namely, (1) [G muattasha = /dʒ/] and (2) [G gaer muattasha = /g/].

But there is a notable difference between the two: while the two sound values of Arabic ج occur in two distinguishable dialectal varieties of Modern Colloquial Arabic, the two sound values of English (G) occur in one and the same dialect of Modern Colloquial English. That is, while in the speech utterances of a native speaker of [ج muattasha] dialect of Arabic, only /dʒ/ occurs, in the speech utterances of a native speaker of [ج gaer muattasha] dialect of Arabic only /g/ occurs regardless of phonetic environments preceding and following them. In English, however, the two sound values of English (G) occur in the speech utterances of every native speaker determined by the phonetic environment preceding and following them, regardless of the dialectal variations in English.

We should note, in passing, some of the salient phonetic / phonemic environments in which the two sound values of English (G) are found to occur. One of the sound values English (G) i.e. /dʒ/ occurs in words before front vowels, e.g. in gin, general, margin, fragile, urgent, orgy, agenda, huge, age and others; it also occurs in words preceded by /d/, e.g. in ridge, edge, judge, dodge, and preceded by /l, r, n/ in Belgian, bulge, charge, large, dirge, change, avenge, danger and several others. The other sound value of English (G) i.e. /g/ occurs in words before back vowels, e.g., in go, God, good, goat, ago, gold, gospel, etc.; it also occurs in words followed by /l, r, m, n/, as in glow, struggle, bugle, grass, great, green, grin, grind, dogma, ignore, cognizance, cognition, cognate and many others. The list of environments given is of course not exhaustive; it is simply representative list. Besides, it should be mentioned that the pattern of distribution of the two sound values of English (G) does not hold in words borrowed into English from other languages like French or Scandinavian, to name only the two which have contributed many words to the present day word-

stock of English.

Some of the salient features of Arabic ج and English (G) have been selected, described and compared in the preceding lines in order to clarify the nature of a learning problem which a Yemeni learner of English must come to grips with in course of learning the sound system of English. The learning problem may be simply stated: how to learn to select and use the appropriate sound values of English (G) in appropriate phonetic / phonemic environments. It should be noted that the Arabic learner of English is quite competent to produce with ease the two sound values of English (G), namely, /dʒ/ and /g/, as is evident from his ability to produce the two sound values Arabic ج, which are /dʒ/ and /g/, the same as for English (G). In other words, the learning problem is not how to articulate /g/ or /dʒ/; the problem is when to use them in utterances. Correspondingly, the problem of teaching is one of training the learner to use /g/ and /dʒ/ in their proper contexts in spite of the seemingly irresistible gravitational pull of the native languages.

The teacher encounters the problem in the following forms. Some Yemeni learners of English systematically replace spoken English /dʒ/ by /g/ as in the following words, for example:

Written form	Yemeni spoken form	Target spoken form
gentle	/gentəl/	/dʒentəl/
general	/genərəl/	/dʒenərəl/
angel	/engəl/	/eɪndʒəl/
change	/tʃeɪnɡ/	/tʃeɪndʒ/
danger	/dengə(r)/	/deɪndʒə/
gender	/gendə(r)/	/dʒendə/
generous	/generəs/	/dʒenərəs/
George	/ɡɔːrʒ/	/dʒɔːdʒ/
genius	/ɡɪniəs/	/dʒɪniəs/
generate	/ɡeneret/	/dʒenəreit/
gesture	/gestʃər/	/dʒestə/
agent	/eɪdʒənt/	/eɪdʒənt/

It is obvious that these Yemeni learners of English are native speakers of that variety of Arabic in which ج is systematical replaced by ج. Other Yemeni learners of English do just the opposite: they systematical replace /g/ by /dʒ/ in spoken English as in the following words, for example

Written form	Yemeni spoken form	Target spoken form
Girl	/dʒerl/	/gɜ:l/
Great	/dʒreɪt/	/greɪt/
Green	/dʒrɪn/	/gri:n/
Gum	/dʒʌm/	/gʌm/
Flag	/flædʒ/	/flæg/
Go	/dʒo/	/goʊ/
Ago	/edʒo/	/əɡoʊ/
Ugly	/ʌdʒli/	/ʌɡli/
Struggle	/strədʒəl/	/strʌɡl/
Target	/tɑːrdʒet/	/tɑːɡet/
Guest	/dʒest/	/ɡest/

Obviously, these Yemeni learners of English are native speakers of that dialectal variety of Arabic in which ج alone occurs; that is, ج has not been replaced by ج in this dialect.

I have described above the replacement patterns involving /dʒ/ and /g/ in the spoken English of Yemeni learners, and the teaching/ learning problem that they give rise to. In my opinion they derive principally from one simple and single replacement of English (G) by Arabic ج. The hypothesis posited here is that Yemeni learners perceive English (G) to be identical with Arabic ج and then feel warranted to do with English (G) whatever they do with Arabic ج. The perception of the identity may be initially prompted by the similarity in the names of the two graphs, /dʒ i:/ of English (G) and /dʒi:m/ of Arabic ج. It may be strengthened later by the parallelism between the distribution of /dʒ/ and /g/ the two characteristic sound values of English (G) and Arabic ج. It is also a fact of life that the average Yemeni learner of English encounters written English more often than live English speakers; naturally, written letters influence them more than the sounds they represent.

Under this hypothesis, the solution of the learning problem lies in overemphasizing the irreconcilable, basic differences in the function of ج and (G) in the system of Arabic and English sounds, respectively. The teacher should do all he can to prevent the initial identification between Arabic ج with English (G), and if it has already occurred, try to eradicate it by all means. Some of the means used and found effective are the following. The teacher is required to drill not only the individual, isolated sounds /dʒ/ and /g/ themselves, but also to direct and focus the attention of the learner on the distinctly phonetic environments in which /dʒ/ and /g/ characteristically occur. Phonetic environments are normally taken into account anyway in all phonetic drills, albeit implicitly. We are simply pleading for deliberate and explicit emphasis on, and discussion of, the phonetic environments of these sounds as an essential part of their drill. The use of minimal pairs is another effective means. For example, by taking the word 'guest', we can show that the replacement of /g/ by /dʒ/ in it will give rise to another English word written 'jest', and thus would produce laughter, misunderstanding and worse. An inventive teacher might devise different and more effective strategies to clear up the confusion between /dʒ/ and /g/ in the mind of Yemeni learners of English. We have simply hinted at the possible origin of the confusion, have stated the nature of the learning/ teaching tasks involved and suggested some ways of handling them.

An Interview With An Iraqi Singer Working In Yemen:

## "I have sung for the great Yemeni singer Abu-Bakr Salim Balfaqih..." "The public in Yemen have an original taste for original music"

Mohammed Al-Saher, a young singer from Iraq, has been living in Yemen for several years. Born in Baghdad in 1966, Mohammed Al-Saher graduated from the Institute of Music and Singing, Baghdad, in 1984. A father a two kids, he first came to Yemen when he was hired by Aden's "Nashwan Al-Qods" Nightclub, for his strong musical voice and special singing gifts. He has been remarkably known for the mix he effected between the new

Al-Saher and filed the following interview:

**Q: We would like to know the beginning of your career in music and singing. In other words what brought you into this world?**

**A:** First let me extend my thanks and best wishes for the Yemen Times for this opportunity to introduce me to the readers of this respectable newspaper. In fact, my early initiation into this career was back in 1982 when I

Theater in the Ministry of Defense.

I was driven to the world of music by a strong desire and fascination to the idea of singing and music. Therefore I did all I could to turn this desire into artistic reality. I took on myself hard practice and ceaseless labor so as to utilize and promote my singing potentials. I am also indebted to a number of individuals who stood by me, appreciated and encouraged me to do my best. Among these people I recall the names of Professor Sa'ad Abdulrazaq, Mr. Farouk Hilal, an Iraqi composer and other Iraqi musicians. On the family level, my wife's unlimited faith in me and her continuous encouragement provided me with endless energy to keep on the track of music.

Like many singers and musicians, I started with imitation. I sang songs for the fabulous Iraqi folk singers like Nadhem Al-Ghazali and Mohammed Al-Cabanji.

The real opening came when I produced a song of my own. The title of this song was "Afraid; You Ijar?" It was a love song and was received favorably by the public in Iraq after I recorded it in an album which also included five other folk and patriotic songs.

**Q: Among Iraqi singers and**

**musicians, who are the most influential that have shaped the course of your career?**

**A:** At the beginning I was extremely attracted to and influenced by the songs of the legendary singer Nadhem Al-Ghazali, who stands on top of the Iraqi musical pyramid. Arab Music in general has a strong spell on me and on a number of occasions I have sung for Arab and Yemeni singers particularly the great Yemeni singer Abu-Bakr Salim Balfaqih.

**Q: What about your recent musical and singing activities now that you are in Yemen?**

**A:** Let me first express my pleasure of being in this lovely country. I first came here from Jordan where I worked for a famous night club called "Blue Up" in Ramada Hotel in Amman. I was invited to Yemen to take part in the musical show held on the occasion of New Year Eve in 1996 in the Gold More Hotel in Aden. I was in a singing team that also included two other Iraqi singers: Mr. Ra'ad Barakat and Ms. Elham Hussain. Following the new year eve, we were engaged in a number of musical nights in a number of entertainment resorts in Aden.

**Q: How about the songs you present? What kind of class do they belong to?**

**A:** In the night musical shows that we present in the different

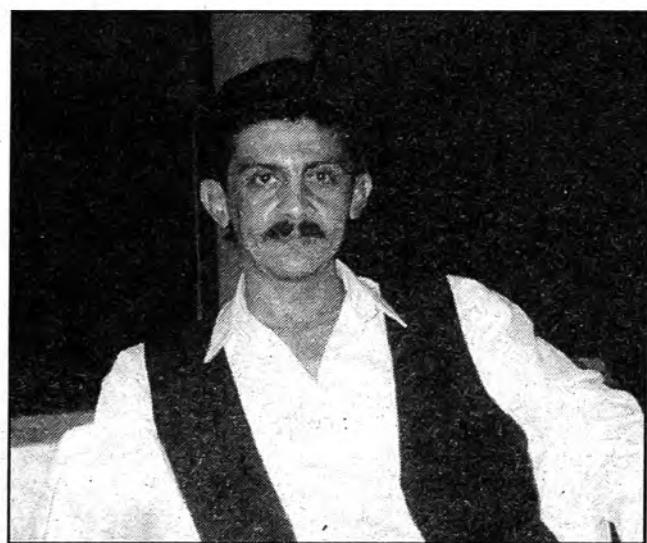
nightclubs, we used to present Iraqi folk and modern songs. We also reproduced songs from the different Arab countries. Let me add

that I find that the public visiting those clubs have their own exquisite taste for the folk Iraqi songs. I am so happy about this and it makes me feel at home when the Yemeni people can enjoy and appreciate Iraqi folk songs. Most of the time I kept receiving calls and cheers to sing for Nadhem Al-Ghazali. This can only point out to one fact: The public in Yemen have an original taste for original music.

**Q: Do You have your own artistic and musical vision through which you can communicate creatively with the public?**

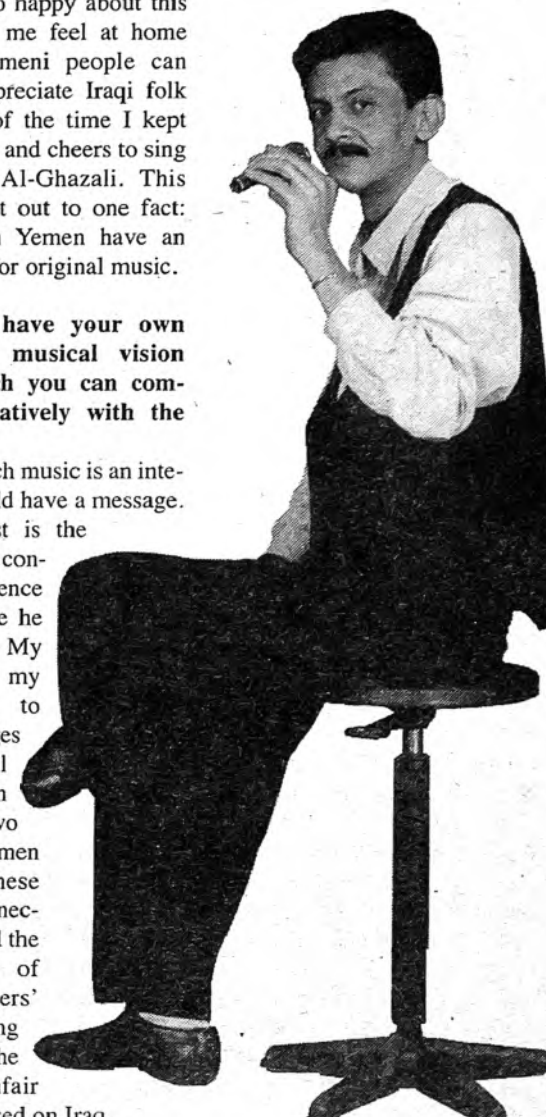
**A:** Art, of which music is an integral part, should have a message. The true artist is the one who can convince his audience of the message he is carrying. My feeling is that my message is to establish bridges of musical communication between the two peoples of Yemen and Iraq. These bridges must necessarily remind the people here of their brothers' unjust suffering as a result of the endless unfair embargo imposed on Iraq.

I can say that my musical mission can come through my careful study of the rhythms, paths, tones and modulation of the original Iraqi song which is, I believe, capable of transmitting and mixing the individual's cares and problems with those of his community.



song and the traditional one. Recently he has been hired by Ramada Hotel Nightclub where he has been conducting the club's night musical parties within Ramada's entertainment night programs. Yemen Times met Mohammed

had the chance to take part in Baghdad Festival for the Songs of the Youth which was organized primarily to discover and encourage new voices in the world of Iraqi music. Before that I worked as a member in the musical band of the Military



## Hadramout: The Heart of Yemen

Hadramout is the Yemeni mermaid, which perplexed the great poets and historians. For many centuries writers had tried to describe the charming features of this region, but they couldn't give her adequate descriptions. One of the main great characteristics of Hadramout is its musical varieties. This comes as a result of their various travels, i.e. they used to travel east & west.. Borrowed some types of other nations rhythms.. Mixed them elegantly with their own.. and produced new types reflecting their simple peaceful and loveable character.

tion of the foreign tourists to convince them to visit this beautiful mermaid and see the real charm of her beaches, forts, skyscrapers, museums, and kind people.

**Hadramout Music Festival 99:** Hadramout musicians association issued a new colored bulletin of information about the preparation of the Hadramout Music Festival 99. This bulletin contains a word written by the state governor, the festival schedules, and the festival goals.

### Festival Goals:

The prepared bulletin mentioned many goals, the most permanent ones are as follows:

- 1- To give special prizes to the talented local poets, artists, and musicians.
- 2- To highlight the special role of the Hadrami songs and ballads in the Yemeni folklore.

3- To introduce the public musical folklore in Hadramout and all over the country.

4- To present some types of Hadramout folklore inside and outside the country.

5- To give an introduction of the great pioneers of the local and public poets and musicians.

6- To encourage the innovative and cultural movement in Hadramout, in particular, and in Yemen in general.

7- To encourage scientific research regarding musical and cultural heritage of this region.

### Special Notes:

- 1- The festival will be held during the revolution's celebrations in September & October 99.
- 2- A public dance concert will take place in Mukalla Main Street in the first day of the festival.
- 3- A great performance of some popular songs of the great local poet, Hussein Al-Mehdar.
- 4- Two fairs will be held representing drawings and some old record cassettes and tapes of the Hadramout singers and local poets.
- 5- Finally this festival will remember all Yemenis with the great song poets and musicians in this region. Those pioneers contributed in reflecting the Peoples daily life themes with their two sides happiness & sadness, ups & downs, etc. I hereby invite all lovers of Hadrami songs & music to come to this national ceremony.

## Yemen Times to Publish a Tourist Guide

Yemen Times, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Tourism, will be publishing a special colored English tourist guide this summer. The guide will be the first of its kind in quality and contents, since it will include various valuable information about the touristic and historical areas and regions in Yemen. The guide will also include helpful information about the travel schedules for flights and trips that are organized by travel and tourist agencies, plus information of hotels, tourist resorts and clubs.

One of the key advantages of the guide that it will expose tourist companies and agencies who plan to extract tourists, in other words, it will contain advertisements about travel and tourist companies, commercial quality hotels and resorts, and companies who want to target the group of tourists in Yemen. The guide will be distributed with issues of Yemen Times free of charge, and will be available in hotels, airports, tourist and travel agencies, Yemenia offices, touristic locations, and will be available in bookstores and other places as well. The guide will not only be a guide for 1999, but it will be used for the years to come, and can be used in Yemen and abroad for the purpose of giving tourists willing to visit Yemen an idea of the country and its facilities. For more information about this tourist guide, and for posting your advertisements, please don't hesitate to call Yemen Times office in Sanaa at Tel: +967 (1) 268 661.

### يمن تايمز بصحبة اصحاب دليل سياحي

رغم أن اليمن بلد مضياف وسياحي، إلا أن التعريف باليمن ضعيف لدرجة كبيرة، ونحن إذ نبدأ موسماً سياحياً هذا العام، فقد قررت صحيفة "يمن تايمز" بالتعاون مع وزارة الثقافة والسياحة أن تصدر دليلاً بالألوان وهو الأول من نوعه عن السياحة في اليمن. سيصدر الدليل صيف هذا العام وسيضم معلومات غنية عن المناطق السياحية والأثرية والرحلات والعديد من البيانات التي ستغطي جميع مناطق اليمن هذا إضافة إلى مجموعة مرموقة من الإعلانات للمصايف، الفنادق، مكاتب الطيران والشركات السياحية، وإعلانات متفرقة عن شركات أخرى.

هذا الدليل سوف يكون مرجعاً ليس فقط في هذا العام وإنما للأعوام القادمة أيضاً وسوف يوزع في داخل اليمن وخارجه، حيث سيوزع على الفنادق، المطارات، مكاتب وشركات السياحة، مكاتب وشركات الطيران، وحتى على طائرات اليمنية، إضافة لإرفاقه مع نسخ الصحيفة المتوفرة في الأسواق والتي توزع على المشتركين.

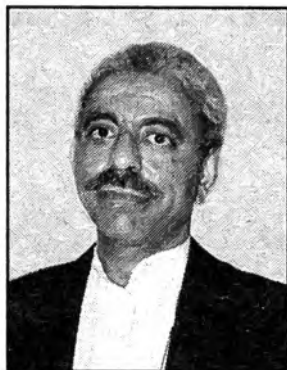
لمزيد من المعلومات أو لحجز إعلان في الدليل، يرجى الاتصال بصحيفة يمن تايمز على هاتف: 268661



# COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Retarded Development: What is Wrong?



One of the major issues confronting the Republic of Yemen - government and people - is the problem of achieving sustained human and economic development that will lead to the improvement of living conditions for the people of the country on an equitable basis, and insure cultural enhancement that will ensure for the country a stable place in the modern world. From time to time, Common Sense will delve into the issues of development in Yemen, because it is a topic that will take much more than can be covered in one article. It is also an issue of paramount interest to everyone involved, from the government to Yemen's sometimes helpless donors, who seem to be at a loss, in determining, what is wrong with the development process in the Republic of Yemen, and where are the root causes of the inability of realizing the desired objectives of the vast sums of money in aid, which Yemen has received over the years, and why are not the tangible results apparent yet, from all this money, which has been expended towards the development of Yemen.

Fifty years ago, Yemen was a "donor" country, enjoying surpluses in agricultural output, that enabled it to provide aid to the neighboring countries, who have yet to taste the prosperity of the oil boom, that was to eventually push Yemen back into the stream of poor, underdeveloped societies - the abyss of the Third World. At the time, the population of the country did not exceed five million, almost all of whom were engaged in traditional agricultural systems. Even "urban" areas were checkered with vast land areas cultivated with garden vegetables and fruit trees. In addition, most "urban" dwellers maintained their own flock of livestock - sheep, a cow, goats and chicken. While still lacking in most of the amenities of modern livelihood, it still goes without saying that it still achieved a high degree of self sustenance, a favorable ecological balance, with a mutual give-and-take relationship between the inhabitants and the environment. An interesting insight into this period of cordial relations with nature might be found in the small book, Yemen, on the Threshold, by Bethmann, issued in 1959.

After the ouster of the monarchy, in 1962 and the subsequent "Civil War", where Yemen played the role of the battlefield, between "traditionalism" lead by the Saudi Arabians under the late King Faisal, and the "revolutionary" Pan-Arab nationalist movement lead by the late Gamal Abdul Nasser, of the United Arab Republic - Egypt, the cordial relationship with nature was never to see light again. Yemen's closed ecological balanced factor - mix

had become subjected to challenges of different manifestations, including regional developments, internal political stability, changing tastes and habits, erratic population movements and an increasingly declining rapport between the inhabitants and the environment.

It goes without saying that considerable strides have been made in "development". But it is clear now that such development has not looked upon the sustainability of this mutual natural affinity between man and nature, as an important asset that should have been maintained. This was principally due to the fact that the development efforts in Yemen was characterized by the following:

- 1) A biased emphasis on quantitative achievements, contrasted with a total disregard for any qualitative considerations.
- 2) Lack of a comprehensive and integrated systematic and methodological approach towards development, with the absence of any standards for evaluation of the results achieved, and the impacts realized.
- 3) Poor planning, monitoring and follow-up thus leading to a generally ad-hoc, impulsive approach to developments, with little analysis and foresight of the ensuing results.
- 4) Decreasing involvement of targeted beneficiaries, contrasted by a notorious and humiliating trend towards a tight centralized framework, that clearly aims at fostering the interests of a very small clique, and maintain all the movement of resources and energies under the control thereof, with little consideration to national long term interests of the population at large.
- 5) An impotent statutory and judicial framework, which is unable to impose the will of law and order with a view to meting out justice and equal treatment of all under the law.
- 6) A total disregard for prioritization in its broader sense of serving Yemen's real national interest and dealing with those issues of clear substance to the general population. Contrasting with this, there is a heavy emphasis on giving priority to political considerations - at all expense, and what ever the adverse outcome this could have on the overall development aspirations of the people.
- 7) An emphasis on short term results, usually in order to meet political ends. Along this line, acquired assets and infrastructure are left to undergo rapid deterioration, due to the absence of self-sustaining operations and maintenance systems to keep them fully in service.

These shortcomings in the development approach of the Republic of Yemen have eventually become constraints against any individual,

community and regional initiatives towards development. Moreover they have often resulted in erratic situations arising, which have severely punctured some of the substantive achievements previously achieved under more favorable national economic conditions - a heavy price in service to minor narrow interests that have lead to the decay of very important social and ethical mores, which were once an important self regulating fabric of the society, with minimal signs of crime and social injustice. In addition, as is the case in most developing countries, cultural enhancement of the population, was given a back seat - if any seat at all - in the development aspirations sought by the government. This eventually clamped down on creativity and innovation. In fact, all cultural activity became principally focused on misguiding the public away from self-expression of any form. Political, scientific, literary and artistic endeavors have become subjected to complex procedural arrangements and controls and any such activities are viewed as prelude to dissent and insurgency.

On the other hand, the public media is either a government monopoly, or is subject to very limited access to the public - and even then, this access is under extremely tight government scrutiny, with the sword of vengeance ready to fall at any time that any "unpatriotic" criticism is aimed at the government or its symbols of authority. This, in the end produces an unreasonable block to access to information of all sorts, and does not allow for badly needed public awareness on even the most important issues of public health, education and economic productivity - the issues that are of most serious concern to the people. Moreover, this clampdown on public awareness seems to contrast with the constitutional right guaranteeing public access to information and the public media, which the original legislators had in mind, as a form of public oversight of government. Moreover it deprives the public from the opportunities that free channels of communication can offer to disseminate their creative and innovative ideas that can be of significant help towards improving their economic welfare and that of others who can also share or improve upon such ideas, as well as deprive the public of meaningful cultural enhancement, which the government media and cultural institutions have failed to bring about, despite the large investment in assets that have yet to come up with any stimulating cultural output, which would justify such heavy investments, and help to put the country on the right track towards development, in all of its manifestations.

Elegy to the Late Yemen Times Founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf by Opposition

## Opposition Honors the Late

Organized by the opposition parties, a ceremony to pay a final tribute to Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Abdullah Sallam Naji was held in Al-Turbah on Thursday, July 22. In the beginning of the ceremony Mr. Mohammed Sultan Abdulla, Spokesman of Taiz-Ibb Coordination Council of the Opposition-Al-Mawasit Branch delivered a speech in which he said:

"A lot of people gathered together this morning in Al-Turbah to pay tribute to the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. This event has moved our emotions for the departure of this great man who can never be forgotten. Fear built a new place inside of us after his death but we will do our best to overcome it. This event came along with another painful event which is paying tribute to another patriot; Abdulla Sallam Naji. May God bless them both."



In an answer to Yemen Times questions about the death of Dr. Al-Saqqaf, Mr. Abdu Al-Ilah Al-Mouhiby, member of the consultative council and head of the Popular Forces Federation in Al-Turbah, said:

"First of all, I would like to thank the Yemen Times for the great efforts it makes to highlight the problems of the common people. Regarding your question, Dr. Al-Saqqaf's death was shocking to everybody. His death has left a big gap not only for his friends and acquaintances but also for the whole humanity. He died, but he is still alive in our hearts because great men never die. He has left us a good example of a real patriot to be followed."

Through the Yemen Times I want to say that we have lived with great patriots like Dr. Abdu Al-Aziz Al-Saqqaf and Ali Abdu Al-Aziz Nassr and today we trust the new generation which will follow their footsteps. At the same time I would like to express my sorrow for the loss of the real sense of democracy in our country."

Commenting on the current situation with regards to the presidential elections, Mr. Al-Mouhiby said: "We were very enthusiastic about the elections in the beginning because we thought that they would be real and the competition would be between the Government and the opposition. We wanted real elections in which all the parties participate but the fact was disappointing, the so-called competition would be inside the ruling party."

### What the People Say

In a question to T. Ahamed Aoon, A member of the Unionist Nasserite party in Al-turbah, who said: the death of Al-Saqqaf was terrifying to the majority of the people who found themselves facing something they have never anticipated. Regarding

his evaluation of the the upcoming Presidential elections after the recommendation of the Parliament, he said: "We are looking to the Presidential elections from its indications and not from the results as it is a foregone conclusion that the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh is the winner. As the ruling party refused to recommend the opposition's candidate, the elections will be comic and farcical because it lacks real and heated competition

Yemen Times also interviewed Mansoor Abul aziz, the vice chairman of the Opposition Coordination Council in the region, who said: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's death had a painful impact on us. We never expected such a thing to happen. About his evaluation of the situation, he said: everything has happened not as we expected which actually creates strong confusion in the process of the emerging democracies.

Mr. Abdullah Abdul Walee Al-Monaifee, the Chairman of the Coordination Council of the Opposition Parties, said: "The death of Al-Saqqaf was a strong shock to all Yemenis. He was the best model Yemen has ever seen. However, his soul, contributions, and great efforts will live on forever. We organize this ceremony to express our appreciation of his efforts and contribution, and all that done by the late, Abdulah Salaam Nagee, who had been a multidimensional literary figure in our country.

"I see that our parliament and the ruling party are controlling and handling things to their interest under the cover of democracy", he added A speech was made by Mr. Emad Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Taiz Bureau Chief. He expressed the tensivity of love the late showed towards Yemen and Yemenis and said: "He never pursued any material gains, and his only concern was to tell the truth, comfort the afflicted, afflict the comfortable and to build the modern Yemen, the society of law and order. His deeds and great contributions make him the most dominant figure in the society.

## A Sit-in at the Gate of the Parliament

The Yemeni petroleum engineers brought a note before the president of the Parliament, Shaikh Abdullah Ben Hussain Al-Ahmar, concerning the presidential orders to employ them in the petroleum companies in Yemen which have not been carried out until now. In their note, the Yemeni engineers asked for the following:

- 1: Carrying out the President's orders to employ them according to their specialization.
- 2: Carrying out the parliament orders which the Minister committed himself to. Before this the Yemeni petroleum engineers carried a sit-in at the gate of the Ministry of Petrol where they were shot at. The Yemen Times hurried to the scene of the problem and had a number of interviews with one of the engineers.

Q: Will you please give us a general idea about the problem?

A: Well, the problem is known to everybody and the government knows it, too. We have two orders from the President concerning employing. In the beginning the number was 251 and now it has been increased. We have been trying for tow years to employ the required number; 360 from which 226 have already been employed. These 226 employees have finished their period of commissioning as teachers. One month ago we brought a note before the Minister informing him of the elapsing of the commissioning period in order to send us to our jobs. When we got no

response we sent another note to the Minister on Saturday, July, 17. We went to the Minister's office but he neither met with us nor he responded to our note. Being disappointed, the engineers decided to carry out a sit-in at the gate. When they could not separate us, a car came and tried to do the same. A heated argument then took place between the engineers and the driver which was soon followed by firing. We were very frightened and we were separated. When the firing stopped some policemen arrived at the scene. They asked as to choose representatives to talk with the Minister. When our representatives went up to the Minister's office they were told that he had gone. We wondered how he managed to leave without seeing him!. In addition to this problem we do not receive a fair payment.

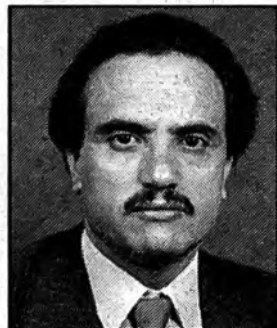
Q: What are your demands?

A: We ask for our rights to be put in jobs that suit our specialization. Thus, we want to be sent to petroleum organizations. We are holding the slogan never ignore the Yemeni qualified specialists.

Q: Do you think this can be done?

A: We have to be hopeful. We are in a democratic country. We send notes to people in charge requesting them to look at our problem with consideration. The Minister, at 8th/6/1998, committed himself to employing 30 to 40 engineers in every petroleum company. We would like this to be accomplished.

# The First Yemeni Human Development Report Launched



By: Ismail Al-Ghabiry  
Yemen Times

The first Yemeni Human Development Report, which seeks to disseminate and consolidate the concept of human development in Yemen, will certainly be useful to the Yemeni Government and to the economic and social planners in the country through its theoretical and conceptual outlook and its prognosis of the situation, supported by empirical studies and official statistics thereof. The most difficult problem encountered in the preparation of the report lies in the lack of and dearth in statistics and data, in some areas, or inaccuracy and inconsistency in others. Moreover, this has often led to reliance on induction and personal estimation of some indices, as exhibited in the Technical Notes of the report. This gives a chance to point out to those in charge of statistics in the country the importance of such figures and data without which it would be difficult to formulate policies and draw plans, especially at this critical stage of human history when we bid farewell to the twentieth century.

### Contents of the Report

The report contains seven chapters. The first chapter deals with conclusions reached by the debates on the concept of human development and its measurement. It also includes discussions of the relation between human development and other concepts such as sustainable economic development, basic human needs of the welfare state, development of human resources, and equality and democracy. This chapter shows that the concept of human development has benefited greatly from these concepts, outlooks and strategies. In other words, it has evolved essentially through these concepts and strategies. The chapter comes to the conclusion that the concept of human development looks at development in a new perspective, one that is more humane and more comprehensive in outlook when compared to previous outlooks and concepts.

In the Second chapter, the focus is on presenting the most recent figures on population and manpower. The chapter is divided into two parts. The first part, addresses change in trends in the size and growth of the population of Yemen. It is divided into four sections. The first section reviews and analyzes the main indices related to population in terms of size, growth, characteristics, age distribution and gender structure. Some prominent indicators reflect the following:

- The population of Yemen reached 15.8 million in 1994 as compared to 12.2 million in 1988 with a growth rate of 3.7% for the period. Population size is doubling every 19 years, according to these figures.

The fourth and final section of this part analyzes the emigration of Yemenis abroad, while at the same time not ignoring the issue of returnees, particularly that which occurred during the Second Gulf Crisis (1990 - 1991). It shows that the number of Yemeni emigrants had reached 1.5 million prior to 1990, most of whom settled in the neighboring oil states, especially Saudi Arabia. Their remittances had contributed significantly to the improvement of the living standards of their families at home, and generally boosted Yemen's economy. However, as a result of the Second Gulf Crisis, Yemen became witness to one of the largest influxes of returning

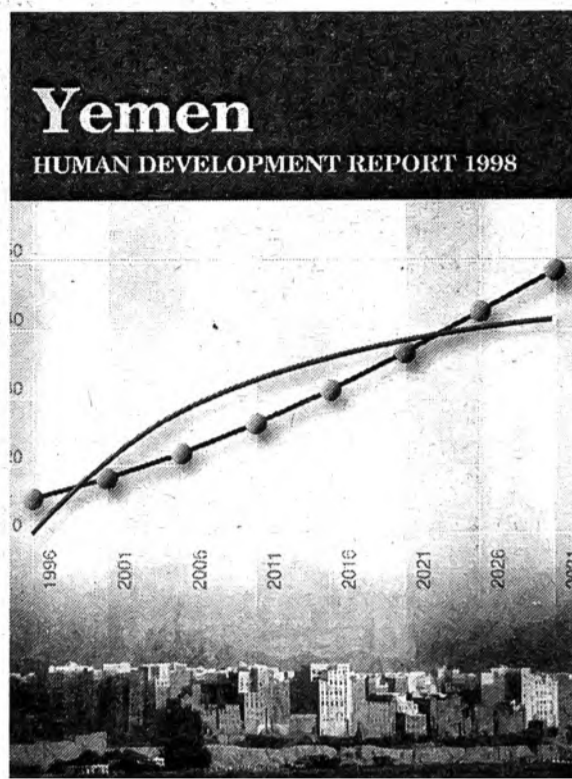
expatriates. The number of those suddenly returning from the Gulf States within a short period of time was estimated at 800,000, most of who came from Saudi Arabia. This resulted in many adverse effects and several problems for both the returnees and the national economy. The second part of this chapter, which focuses on the labor market, is divided into three main sections. The first of these provides an analysis of the labor force in terms of size, characteristics and participation. It shows that the labor force in 1998 reached 4,364 thousands compared to 3,553 thousands in 1994, that is an average annual increase of 5% which exceeds the population growth rate. Participation rate in the labor force constituted 24.4% of the total population in 1994, while reaching 37.6% of the total population over 10 years of age, ranging between 29.0% and 7.6% for males and females, respectively. This reflects an obviously lower percentage of women's participation in the labor force and also the insignificant share taken up by child labor (10 - 14 years old). Finally this section discusses the characteristics of the labor force among which is the high illiteracy rate where 80.3% of the total working labor in 1994 is either illiterate or only able to read and write.

The second section explores the characteristics of the labor market and the problems of employment, whereas the third and final section looks into unemployment in terms of size, causes and characteristics of the unemployed. There were 325,000 people unemployed in 1994, a percentage of 9.1% of the manpower. The illiterates make the highest rate of unemployment rate in urban areas which is higher (11.5%) than that in rural areas (8.4%), while it doubles among females compared to males. In this respect, the

report concludes that unemployment is one of the major economic and social problems facing the Yemeni society.

The third chapter comprises three parts, which deal with economic growth, public expenditures and poverty respectively. The first part is divided into three main sections, discussing the economic conditions of the nineties, the Economic Reform Program and an assessment of this program. The first section concludes that there was a slowdown in the path of economic growth in the country, especially during the period 1990-95. The economy could not increase nor even maintain the level of personal income, especially in light of the high rate of population growth.

The third section comes to the conclusion that the Economic, Financial and Administrative Reform Program, which went into effect in March 1995, has accomplished its objectives with respect to the financial, monetary, pricing, balance of payments and foreign currency reserve indices. Among its results is a budget deficit reduction, suppressing public expenditures, controlling inflation, encouraging improvement in external debt, and stability of the floating exchange rate. However, the program



has its negative effects on the social aspects and the livelihood of the people, especially the low-income earners and the poor.

The part dealing with public expenditures and human development comprises three sections. The first provides analysis of public expenditures in accordance with the economic and social priorities, and concludes with a discussion of the low expenditures on social services. While the share of the health sector stood at 4% of total public expenditures (1% of the GDP), the share of education declined from 19% of 16% over the last two years. The second section is concerned with human priority index, showing that the slow progress of the index from 1990-94 was not sustainable due to the financial imbalances suffered by the economy.

The third part of this chapter takes up the issue of poverty. It is a chronic socio-economic problem confronting the Yemeni people. The definition of poverty adopted in the report is not confined to deprivation from consuming goods and service. It also includes deprivation from choice and participation. With this definition, the measurement of poverty

extends to include aspects of education, health, political empowerment and the practice of human rights, etc. This part overviews the historical background of poverty in Yemen before the sixties and up to the reunification of the country in 1990. It also identifies the structural determinants of poverty in Yemen represented in the scarcity of natural resources, structural economic shortcomings, and the temporary determinants of poverty which resulted from the economic crisis during the first half of the nineties and from the Economic Reform Program. These two led to the creation of factors such as the decline of average real income, widespread unemployment and lifting of subsidies from basic goods and services, all leading to further burdens on the poor.

The second part of this chapter continues to show the levels of poverty existing in Yemen from 1992 to 1998, pointing to three most important aspects. The first reviews the measurement and indices of poverty in Yemen used in the report, which is a measurement based on individual and household consumption expenditures. The second aspect critiques the results of the World Bank study on poverty indices and levels in Yemen 1992. The study has concluded that 2.6 million Yemenis live below the

poverty line, while about 1.5 million suffer from absolute poverty.

The fourth and final section addresses the poverty alleviation programs and policies in Yemen. In this respect, the report states that the Yemeni Government has, especially since the Economic Reform Program, turned towards carrying out a number of programs to fight poverty, or at least mitigate its effects through a number of measures, such as: the Social Welfare Fund, the Social Fund for Development, the Public Works Project, and the Social Increments for Government and Public and Mixed Sector employees. Notwithstanding the need for the establishment of social mechanisms to compensate the poor and low income groups suffering from adverse effects brought by the Economic Reform Policies, they are seen as steps in the right direction to counteract such effects. However, their role is still limited, and yet it is too early to assess their impact on the alleviation of poverty.

The fourth chapter of the report goes on to show, in figures, the most up to date picture of human development in relation to education. Yemen's educational situation is discussed quantitatively and qualitatively, including the areas of basic, secondary, vocational and technical education as well as higher education. It does not overlook private sector investment in the sector, especially in basic and secondary levels. This chapter is divided into five sections, the first one deals with illiteracy and assesses its programs. In this regard, the report mentions that despite considerable efforts, illiteracy rate remained high at 56% in 1994. Among males the rate in 43.3%, whereas among females it rises to 82.9%. It should be noted that the general illiteracy rate decline during the period 1988-94 from 67% to 56%. The report confirms that the outcome of the literacy programs is still rather limited due to a number of reasons.

The fifth chapter analyzes the situation of health care services, and the country's general health conditions, supported by the latest official figures on health. It focuses on the foundations of the health care services, in terms of institutions, staffing, health system and medicine. On the other hand, the chapter assesses the general health conditions of the population in the areas of immunization, maternity care, infant mortality, water and sanitation.... etc.

The sixth chapter deals with the environment, in view of its direct link with human development. Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present generation without jeopardizing the capabilities and opportunities of future generations. The first of the four sections contained in this chapter discusses the direct link between the environment and both human development and population. It explains how environment protection and development are integrated elements, and are closely tied in terms of their effect on each other. Moreover, the environment is not an economic sector, but a dynamic dimension of cross-sectoral development. The chapter confirms the close relationship between the environment and population based on the fact that population growth affects the environment in several respects, such as increasing the burden on the available natural resources, water shortages, sanitation drainage, pollution resulting from industry, energy and transportation. It also draws attention to the growing population of Yemen at the rate of 3.7% per annum, which will have an adverse effect on development efforts, and will place additional burden on environment protection measures, especially in the light of the current economic conditions of the country.

The seventh and final chapter discusses and analyzes an important topic, the transformation of a civil society and democracy. The significance of the topic stems from two factors, the first being the participation of people in development, an issues linked with the concept and context of human development. The second factor shows how Yemen, after reunification in 1990, witnessed confirmation and transformation in some crucial sectors that are linked to the crux of human development, such as democracy, human rights and civil liberty. The chapter is divided into two sections. The first relates to the definition of the civil society and the factors leading to its appearance in Yemen, its institutions, and its relationship with the tribe and the role of law in the society. It also points out the importance of local governance (centralization and decentralization) in Yemen, and discusses the nature of the current political and social system and human rights.



**SILVER LINING**

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

**Information Proliferation:**

**A Must of Our Time**



It is unequivocal that this age is the time of knowledge. In fact, the 20th century is described by many experts as the time of technologically revolutionized era where the communications have turned the world into a small village. In other words, it is said that what has been achieved by the humanity throughout human life is very little in comparison with what has been accomplished in the 20th century. The most important field that has witnessed marvelous wonders is that of communication and information. That is, informatics is one of the pillars of the success of the advanced world. It is rather said that man in our time is valued by how much information he has. Therefore, the world has assigned centers for making information available for everybody. Moreover, obtaining this information has become a part of one's human rights, for all the world constitution stress the significance of this right. Centers and organizations are established in the advanced world for the purpose of proliferating information and making it available as a commodity in the marketplace of knowledge, since they believe that it is only knowledge and illumination of minds that will yield progress and prosperity for any society. Unfortunately, in Yemen the case is entirely the reverse. The officialdom as well as the public are not aware of this vital issue. We find that the officialdom doesn't give any due attention to the necessity of making it available for the interested people. It is quite rational that each ministry should have, so to speak, a monthly bulletin for recording all its figures and statistics. Paradoxically, the ministers and their deputies don't know themselves exact data and figures about their ministries. If a journalist interviews any of such official and asks him a question about any figures related to their establishments, soon he will forward him/her to another official, which is completely clear that they don't know what is going on in their establishments. What a pity?

Some other officials still believe that information is a secret that should not be disclosed or released to the media or whoever else. That is, they still hold backward views that the release of such information is against the national interest of the country or such information might be used against the government. They forget that informatics in this modern epoch has become an industry. This puts each nation in its position according to the amount of information it produces. Our officials don't know that once information is available and released, it becomes easier to perform a good work in different arenas of life. To drive the point home, it is not possible to think of any economic growth or progress without information being available at the hands of everybody. I don't mean that information is the only major factor of development. Rather, information is a helpful means that can be used in various economic establishments and decision-making cores for the well-being of the populace. Another point is that researchers are troubled by the shortage and blackout on information, an indispensable service.

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Accordingly, a society that does not value researching, as one of the potential means of solving any problem, will not be able to even crawl towards the 21st century at a time where some nations are going fast. The fissure is so wide, isn't it? The people of media are also plagued

with the same problem. Sometimes the officials papers and journalists are blessed with the access into such information while others are deprived of this advantage and constitutional right. More cynically, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs doesn't have a special spokesman who can release information

to the public as well as the media. Therefore, it is high time the government understood the vital role of information in the life of its citizens and hence lifted such blackout on information. Furthermore, it has to establish information centers nation-wide. Magazines and bulletins for the purpose

of spreading information have to be issued. This is because access to information is an access to knowledge and an access to knowledge is an access to progress and prosperity. The government and officialdom have to keep their eyes peeled to this issue.



## Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas

### الوحدوي

Al-Wahdawy,  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of  
The Nasserite Unionist Party,  
20/7/1999

#### A- Front-Page Headlines

1- In a statement to the paper, Ali Saleh Obad, the opposition Presidential nominee says that the Opposition's Agenda reflects the real values of the Yemeni People and their future aspirations.

2- The number of duplicated and unreal names in the voters' lists exceeds over one million.

3- The Parliament instructs the government to stop levying illegal fees and tariffs.

4- In Hodeidah, three trucks were detained on charges of smuggling the subsidized commodity of flour to Saudi Arabia. The trucks are said to belong to a leading businessman who is also a member of the Parliament.

5- In the Capital Secretariat, an arrest campaign has been launched against Khuwlan tribesmen.

6- Tribal clashes between Adham Al-Hamra and Wa'aelah continues.

#### B- Issue's Editorial

The opposition parties represented in the Coordination Council, have proved their ability to overcome the state of confusion in their political relationships to establish a new tradition characterized by mutual confidence. They have also given an excellent example of burying their political and egotistical considerations to step on the way of self-denial to promote the country's

interests and the public service. With this unprecedented move the Yemeni opposition has embarked upon the arduous path of struggle and strife. It has also come as an expression of ideas cherished by many political activists inside or outside the Coordination Council who have been long waiting for such a step which were proposed in 1993 but failed due to the political circumstances at that time.

More importantly, this decision will eliminate the state of ambiguity among the masses who have been emotionally and intellectually unstable regarding the role and mission of the opposition. This state of doubt has created in the masses a feeling of frustration reflected in their flimsy political involvement. Now this decision will kindle in them the necessary fire to stand up courageously against the regime and its different political bodies.

### الطريق

Attariq,  
Aden Weekly,  
Independent,  
20/7/1999

#### Front-Page Headlines

1- Today, the Parliament approves the nomination of the presidential candidates.

2- In the light of a report published in Attariq last week, the President of the Republic orders the ultimatum issued by Aden Real Estate and Public Land Authority to be null and void.

3- In a statement to the paper, Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf, Professor of International Law expresses fears that the opposition might pay for not calling

for constitutional amendments related to the parliament's screening of presidential nominations before the elections.

4- Sanaa Attorney General's office instructs the Governor of Sanaa to close down the Governorate's prison.

5- The Monetary Fund and the World Bank grant Yemen funds for development.

6- The lawyer of late Al-Saqqaf's heirs threatens to withdraw from the court session. The lawyer challenges the impartiality of the Public Prosecutor.

### البلد

Al-Balagh,  
Sanaa Weekly,  
Independent,  
20/7/1999.

#### A- Front-Page Headlines

1- Nahm Tribe intercepts Al-Jouf highway, preventing Al-Jouf's citizen from moving on to their areas.

2- As a result of the tribal clashes between Dahm and Wa'aelah, six people were killed and twelve others were injured.

3- Moqbil welcomes the PGC's intention to deny him the 10% parliamentary recommendation and demands exposure of the current corrupt situation in Yemen.

4- A group of teachers, members in the General Conference of the Teachers Syndicate, demands the fourth conference of the Syndicate to be held soon.

#### B- Issue's Editorial

This week President Ali Abdullah Saleh begins his twenty second year as the head of the state in Yemen. During this period, president Saleh has become extensively experienced in and sharply knowledgeable about his country's ins and outs. However our aim is not to dig into the bygone period in President's Saleh government, for it is the future that will begin with his new term in office that we are most concerned with. When President takes over the post, as it is most likely to happen, we hope that he would be able to leave the past behind and start as if he rules for the first time. This would enable him to best utilize his past experience in power with a new approach and vision that appropriately meets with the needs of the new era. We believe that the most pressing public demand is related to the phenomenal issue of corruption. Hence our legitimate expectations that President Saleh will begin his new term with a serious determination to uproot all means of corruption. We look forward to seeing senior officials in the government desist from business which necessarily entails the clash of interests. This duplicate role has greatly

exhausted the public treasury and wiped out a huge sector of good and honest citizens/businessmen. There is yet a more vital issue of the President's close entourage which we strongly believe, will be revamped to be armed with strict ethical values of honesty and integrity. To let things continue as they stand now can mean only one thing: this country is sure to move from bad to worse and from worse to the worst.

### الوطنية

Al-Wahda,  
Sanaa Weekly, Official,  
21/7/1999

#### Front-Page Headlines

1- For the first time, the Yemeni People will be able to elect their President.

2- The President's tour to the Arab Maghrib countries continues.

3- In the UN Human Development Report, the number of the poor people in Yemen is 4.3 million.

4- On the occasion of the inauguration of the Annual UN Human Development Report, the Prime Minister says that globalization trends have ended up with the accumulation of wealth inside closed circuits.

5- The Supreme Elections Commission approves the timetable for the presidential race.

6- Draft Law of the Local Authority allows extensive jurisdictions for local councils.

### رأي

Ray,  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of  
The league of the Sons of  
Yemen (Rabita),  
20/7/1999.

#### A- Front-Page Headlines

1- Al-Mukala: An explosive land mine.

2- 17 people have been kidnapped and a number of oil trucks have been detained in the recent entanglements between Haraz and Jahm.

3- The Commission to Protect Journalist (CPJ) reports to the President that the campaign unleashed against the independent press has created a state of panic for the Yemeni journalists.

4- Political observers express satisfaction for Rabbita's stance in regard to the presidential elections and describe such stance as realistic and honest.

5- Press reporters are exposed to pressures to withdraw their complaints against Al-Mythaq newspaper.

#### B- Issue's Editorial

The near future is sure to reveal everything and then solid facts will be disclosed for everyone to know. By that time everybody we agree with or disagree with, will appreciate the stance of the Rabbita Party which has abstained from coming up with a presidential candidate and at the same time does not call for elections boycott. We feel our position is the most faithful to the country's national interests as it

stems from stark and objective considerations of the country's recent realities while it does not affect our established convictions in democracy as the sole option for all governments. While we are committed to contribute our best to the issue of democracy, we are aware of the risks involved in taking part in a farce-like elections which, we believe, is fated to reproduce only mirages of fantasy and illusion. The vote, is too valuable to be cast in a game of lies and self-deception.

### الإحياء

Al-Ehya Al-Arabi,  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of  
The Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party,  
19/7/1999

#### A- Front-Page Headlines

1- The Eternal Iraqi Revolution of July is a beacon of honor for all honest revolutionary Arabs.

2- On the 31st anniversary of July Ba'ath Revolution, President Saddam Hussain, Secretary General of Ba'ath Party says that Rulers in the Gulf have lost control over their oil.

3- In Khuwlan, another blast in an oil pipe line.

4- The Opposition Coordination Council condemns violations of the official media in regard to the principal of fair publicity for all presidential candidates.

#### B- Issue's Editorial

Official media has now become uncommonly careful to turn every program or a piece of news to a propaganda material in favor of the state's presidential candidate. For the first time it appears as if the audience to which these materials are addressed are some people living outside the Republic of Yemen and therefore it is easy to pass lies over legendary heroic feats of the president and his "endless historical achievements". Yet there are two facts regarding which the officials in the Ministry of "propaganda" are headless. First this electoral "trickery" is a scandalous violation against the Constitution, the existing laws and against the state's impartiality required in this particular issue. Second, the real target of the propaganda, the Yemeni people, can no longer be duped through such trite nonsense as they can easily distinguish between the real and the fake and between first hand and second

hand politicians.



Assahwah,  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of,  
The Yemeni Congregation for  
Reform (Islah Party),  
22/7/1999.

#### A- Front-Page Headlines

1- Islah Secretary General receives a delegation from the US Embassy in Sanaa on the occasion of Ms. Dicki's end of assignment.

2- In Aden, Chinese fishing boats commit violations that should be stopped immediately.

3- In the Human Development Report, the transition towards civic institutions can not be achieved without adherence to law and order.

4- In a press interview, Mr. M. H. Masdous, a YSP leader says that YSP decision to run the race against president Saleh has turned the party into a fifth column working against national unity.

5- Once again, the ministry of information refuses to comply with the court's summon in the case filed against it by three major parties in the opposition, including the Islah Party.

#### B- Issue's Editorial

A few weeks ago, a conference intended to discuss the question of smuggling and its devastating impacts on the national economy was held here in Sanaa. In fact the phenomenon of smuggling is a potential factor causing destruction to the entire future of our country. How badly we wish to see this epidemic, being eliminated! But the funny thing is that those people in the government who call for combating smuggling are themselves corrupt officials whose bad influence can be felt in every nook and corner in the country. So can we expect that the ordinary citizen would be actively involved in anti-smuggling campaign when these corrupt officials are the originators of this idea? We very much doubt it and rather believe that the wishes of the ordinary people in Yemen do not coincide with those of their government.

تهانينا القلبية للأخ

جلال عبده عثمان

وذلك بمناسبة عقد قرانه

وقرب الزفاف، فانف مبروك.

المهنتون،

منير الماوري، ناصر الماوري،

توفيق الشرعبي

### نداء الى أهل الخير

الطفلة «ريسة علي محمد دواس»، 7 سنوات، تعاني من تشوهات بليغة في الوجه وعمى العينين نتيجة لحروق شديدة في الوجه وسائر أنحاء جسمها. وقد تقرر إجراء جراحات تجميلية وعملية في العينين لها في الخارج، ولكن والديها لا يمكن نفقات السفر والعلاج. والدا الطفلة يرجوان أهل الخير تقديم يد العون ومساعدة طفلهما.

الرجاء الاتصال على رقم ٢٦٨٦٦١ أو ٦١٤٧٦٥.

### An Appeal to kind-hearted people

Raisa Ali Mohammed Dawas, a 7 year-old girl, had her face burnt severely causing distortions on her face and her eyes went blind. A surgery on her face has to be done abroad. Please help the girl by calling at 614765 or 268661.



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# Yemen Times Interviews the Released Four Kidnapped Belgians

Kidnapping is one of the major headaches faced by Yemen today. It is the most expedient method that tribesmen use to press the government to provide them with some services. The last kidnapping incident was that of the 4 Belgian tourists, Pierre Martens, Anna Paulussen, Albert-William Scholliers, and Gerada Levecke. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi and Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times interviewed the four Belgians after their release, as well as Mr. Zaghlool Bazara of Bazara Travel & Tourism and filed the following excerpts:

**Q: Please describe how you were kidnapped and did you try to resist?**

**A:** After we had lunch, we traveled on to Sadaa. However, all of a sudden, we found ourselves overtaken by four armed men sitting on the back of a Toyota land cruiser. I have seen so many people in the different tribal areas carrying heavy weapons with them, therefore, I was not very much surprised. The driver of our car tried many times to speed up and escape but we could not. Soon they blocked the road by their jeep and five armed men jumped out of their jeep and came to our car. Our driver took his gun and pointed it at them but he quickly saw that we were out-



numbered and he disarmed his gun. Then somebody opened the car from my side and started to pull at the gun. I was quite scared because I thought that something might happen with all this pushing back and forth with the gun on my stomach. So they took the driver out of the car and he was forced to hand over the keys to them. They put him in the back of the car, turned the car to another direction and drove at a fast speed. Then, they drove from left to right three or four times and I thought that we were going to be killed in a car accident.

**Q: How did the kidnapers treat you?**

**A:** Actually, not bad but the problem was that we were speaking either English or other languages and they were only

speaking Arabic. In the evening somebody who spoke English came and told us not to worry. That did not help much because we still worried. He also promised that we would be able to make a telephone call in the morning. When we asked him how long this might take, he told us that it might take one week or two weeks or a month.

**Q: What are the main problems you faced while being kidnapped?**

**A:** The main problem is that when you are under forced apprehension, you are not certain about your future, you are almost uncertain about nothing. For then on, we were well treated they did every thing we asked. Actually, it was very interesting to live among these tribesmen. It was an experience I've never planned to

have. It was interesting but I will never do it again.

**Q: How did you manage your sleep, food and other things while being in captivity?**

**A:** It depended upon the kidnapers to decide when you have to get up, have breakfast, lunch, go to sleep, go to the bathroom, etc. We could control nothing. It was only when the door was closed that we could talk freely and that was all.

**Q: Did you feel afraid that the Yemeni government might use force to release you?**

**A:** Not at all. It was that we were isolated and we had not information about what was happening outside. It was only the driver who gave us some information. We knew that there were troop movements and that the army was somewhere in the mountains nearby.

**Q: What is your advice to the tourists visiting Yemen and what word do you have for the Yemeni people?**

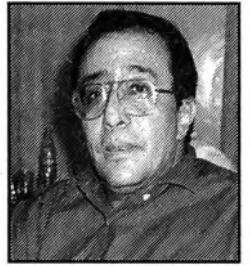
**A:** To the first, I say that there are some tribal areas in the south where they should be accompa-

nied by army forces. And to the Yemeni people I tell them that every person on this earth is in search of happiness, security and help and there are many Yemeni people who are the same way, but there are some primitive people who do not think in a proper way to find solutions for their problems. We like the Yemeni people and we would like them to help themselves and build the modern Yemen.

**Q: Are you planning to visit Yemen again?**

**A:** Not tomorrow, of course. I plan to visit all the world. I will remember Yemen as a nice and edgy place

## Yemen Times Interviews GM of Bazara Travel and Tourism Agency



**Q: When did you first get in contact with the kidnapped, and how?**

**A:** The first contact we had was at 14:30 on Thursday. We were contacted by our French-speaking guide who fled with the 3 other tourists from the kidnapping. This was immediately upon his arrival to Saada.

**Q: How were they released? How much did that cost?**

**A:** As you might be aware that we have contacted all the authorities concerned, especially the Minister of Interior who helped us in a professional and efficient way. That is how and why the tourists were released in 3 days time. It is not possible for me to tell you the price for the release of the tourists. I think you can ask the Ministry of Interior this question.

**Q: How were you able to convince the tourists to continue their tour?**

**A:** I do agree with you that it is difficult to convince

kidnapped groups to continue their tour. For Your information we had to do it in 2 ways:

We had to convince the 3 tourists who were not kidnapped to continue the tour. To do this we left them in Saada for one day. Our guide explained to them that the risk was nearly nil for any harm. When they came to Sana'a, I managed with the Dutch Ambassador to convince them of continuing their trip. We had a positive response. The second one was the 4 kidnapped tourists. Upon their arrival in Sanaa, we made an official reception for them at Hadda Hotel. The Minister of Tourism himself was present and made a very good speech in which he invited them to continue their tour. At night we had dinner in His Excellency's house, the Ambassador of Holland also convinced them to continue the tour. Believe me, they responded positively. All of them were very happy to have done and showed no regrets.

## Procter & Gamble (Yemen) Ltd. Produces New Items

Procter and Gamble started its activities, in Yemen, in 1994. In April 1995, its first product was in the Yemeni market. Presently, Procter and Gamble-Yemen produces 6 items, 5 of which are considered top products. The company's headquarter is in Sana'a and it has a very advanced factory in Taiz. 180 is the number of workers in the company out of which 97% are Yemenis. Since 1994, the company investment in Yemen has exceeded 30,000,000\$. The success of Procter and Gamble's products in the Yemeni markets is due to the following reasons:

- Ariel's charitable participation in Ramadhan. It supported 30 institutions in the fields of education.
- The Procter and Gamble's Countryside Educational Program. The company visits villages

to provide women with the essential services in the fields of health and education. During the last 6 months, the company visited more than

375 villages and it is planning to pay more visits to other villages.

- The Continual School Choosing Program. With the cooperation of NGO, the company has provided more than 100,000 students with special educational services in the field of personal health. This program will cover more than 120,000 students next year.

**NOW, the company offers the Yemeni consumers 125 gm of Ariel for only 25 Rs.**

Procter and Gamble, established in 1837, produces more than 300 different products for more than 5 Billion consumers in more than 140 countries. In its financial year 30/6/1998, the company earned 37.2 Milliard US \$.

**The company products:**

Procter and Gamble is a leading company in the field of manufacturing, improving and marketing products of high quality including washing powder, washing liquids, papers, drinks and health care products. These products are: Max Factor, Oly, Bert Plus, Sunny Daylight, Bringles, Crest, Tide, Fairy, Bounty and Pampers.

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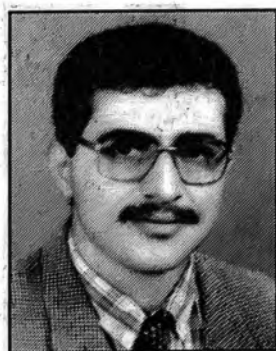
### محمد حاتم القاضي

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حسين محمد عولقي  
بمناسبة إطفاء شمعة ميلاده الأولى بين فرحة  
الأهل والأحباب في عدن بعد قدومه وأسرتة من  
لندن بالسعادة.  
المهنيون: عائلة زبير أمد علي، عفاء زبير،  
عائلة وديع حدان، عائلة محمد عولقي،  
عائلة فؤاد أبوبكر، نصرت نزار،  
صفاء فضل الله مطلق

# Sanaa Witnesses Mega Baskin Robbins Opening

it is easy to use words such as biggest, largest, best, etc.. But last Friday July 16th Yemen truly witnessed its best, biggest, and most memorable opening event held thus far. For Baskin Robbins, the world's most famous ice cream brand, opened its doors for the first time to the Yemeni public, and they came in their thousands to appreciate the choices and flavours being offered.

The event was officially launched by HE Ms. Barbara Bodine, the US Ambassador. Although there on official duty, HE Ms Bodine did not let the element of fun pass her by, and she has the enviable distinction of being the first person to enjoy a scoop of Baskin Robbins ice cream in Yemen.

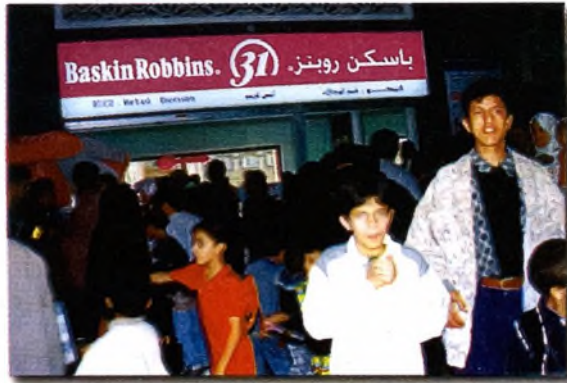
The store which is located in the Sanaa Trade Center in Algeria Street, was flooded by people visiting from all over the country. A crowd of 2,000 was expected to attend the event, but the actual number present during the day swelled to over 14,000. "That was truly incredible", said Atico Retailing General Manager, Ali Haidary. "We advertised the event well, and we knew people had been anticipating the opening for some time, but not even in our wildest dreams did we expect this amount." He added, "what was truly encouraging though, was the knowledge that the Yemeni consumer had about Baskin Robbins. They didn't just ask for Vanilla or Chocolate, they knew the names of our flavours and they had been loyal customers all over the Middle East and around the world."

The event was characterised by a number of fun activities available to the general public. Event sponsors Aramex, Coca Cola, Emirates, and Sheraton, had set up excellent stalls and gave generous gifts to the attendees, which were truly appreciated by all.

In addition to the wonderful ice cream



The US ambassador, Barbara Bodine inaugurates Baskin Robbins shop



Mr. Al-Haidary and the Ambassador in the shop

available, attendees had the opportunity to have their children's faces painted by a professional artist. Ladies were not forgotten either, and were able to have their hands painted with traditional henna designs. A cartoon cinema had children transfixed for the whole day as new Disney cartoons were shown on a giant screen. Finally, young people had the opportunity to enjoy good music played live by a local band. All in all, it was a truly memorable day which will not be outdone in a long time.

Mr. Srinivas Kumar, Vice President of Operations at Allied Domecq Retailing International, Baskin Robbins' mother company, said of the event, "it was a truly historic event, and we congratulate Atico on a job well done. We welcome Yemen to our Baskin Robbins family. I believe that Atico is setting the standards for what retailing is and will be in Yemen. It is a courageous move and we wish them the best."

Baskin Robbins has come a long way since its beginning in California in 1945, and now proudly boasts over 700 different flavours. The Baskin Robbins parlour in Yemen offers 32 flavours, one for each day of the month, and an extra "Flavour of the Month" which will change on a



monthly basis. One thing is certain, the customer will be completely spoilt for choice, not only in the flavours, but also the way he can eat the ice cream: in a sundae, milk shake, banana split, or alone in a cup or cone.

Atico President & CEO, HE Sheikh

Hameed Al-Ahmar said, "It has been an ambition of mine for quite some time to see Baskin Robbins open in Yemen. It gives me great pleasure to see local and expatriate families and children enjoying the wonderful atmosphere of Baskin Robbins here in Sanaa"

Baskin Robbins's slogan, "Where Wonders Never Cease" has certainly lived up to its promise since the opening, and will surely do so for many years to come.



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