

YEMEN TIMES

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Efforts to Frame Yemen Times Chief Editor Continue Dr. Saqqaf:

"J'accuse"

Efforts to trap and frame the chief editor of the Yemen Times continue relentlessly. This week, the efforts have taken a new twist as the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) instructed the newspaper's banker to furnish details of its accounts. This kind of intrusion in the relationship between the bank and its clients is illegal and it does not help build confidence in the banking system.

From the start, let me say that I understand the paper has not objected that its banker/s provide a full and complete statement of its accounts and transactions to the CBY, the PSO, Tax Authorities, and whichever state organ desires a copy. It has nothing to hide.

But the incident itself tells a lot. It shows that the regime is out there trying hard to find anything that will incriminate the Yemen Times. It wants to find any excuse to frame the chief editor, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Let me give a brief rundown of the many hassles to which the paper and its chief editor have been exposed by a regime that keeps repeating to visitors and to the world it is "civilized and democratic".

1. There is the repeated imprisonment of the chief editor and some of the staff. Dr. Al-Saqqaf was imprisoned over the last year four times. The last time three days ago on Wednesday, September 27th. He was asked to go to Taiz in order to help the authorities track down the party/parties that attacked his home in the village and killed his cousin. But that was the excuse used to trap him to Taiz. As he arrived, he was told he cannot leave and has to remain in jail. Nine hours later, he was released, and only after his friends and decent Yemenis and foreigners raised hell.

2. There is the disconnection of all telephone and fax lines. At one time, the lines remained dead for almost two months. Of course, there was no compensation for the damage brought on the paper's business due to that.

3. There is the occupation of the Yemen Times office. On several occasions, uniformed people come and kick out the staff of the paper. They ransack the office, and then leave.

4. There is the mail searching and phone tapping. This has become so prevalent that the paper and its people have almost accepted it as a fact of life.

5. There is the airport harassment. If you are in a queue behind Dr. Al-Saqqaf, you better get yourself a book and start reading. Getting his paperwork done takes for over. He is also searched thoroughly, and in a way that aims to humiliate him.

6. There is the over-charging effort by the Tax Authorities. The tax estimates have gone up 200 fold (20000%). They demanded payment of YR. 8.27 million. This was contested by the newspaper. After



several meetings in which accountants and lawyers were involved, the new estimate was reduced to about 2% of the original amount- YR 177,000. Yemen Times believes the amount due is around YR. 55,000.

7. Then there is the constant tailing. PSO agents often follow Yemen Times cars and staff wherever they go.

8. Recently, the authorities have propped up a local heavy-weight, who brought to the village of Dr. Saqqaf heavy firearms such as bazookas and machine guns. He recruited militias, armed them, and started menacing the Saqqafs. His men started shooting in the air through the night for several days in a row. These developments were reported to the authorities. Yet, the officials never did anything. Many elders and Dr. Saqqaf have appealed to President Saleh, Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, the Governor, etc. They gave clear written instructions which were then 'ignored'.

In early September, these gangs occupied the Women's Development Center by force. The authorities were asked to intervene, but there was no answer.

Then a cousin of Dr. Saqqaf, a young engineer called Abdulghani Abdullah Al-Saqqaf was killed by sniper shooting. Three weeks later, the authorities are "unable" or unwilling to find the criminal/s.

It was a compelling trap to sink Dr. Saqqaf into a new abyss. He was even arrested for a few hours in Taiz.

9. This week there is a new development at Banque Indosuez. The bank was instructed by the CBY to furnish details of the Yemen Times account. This is a breach of the trust between the bank and its client. Yet, Yemen Times did not object.

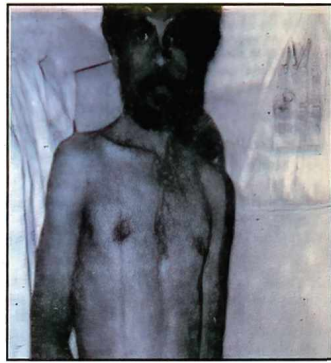
The pressure is becoming unbearable. "The state-sponsored harassment is getting dirtier and more violent," he said. As a long-time associate of Dr. Saqqaf, I have never seen him so troubled before.

Does the regime want to close down the Yemen Times? Is it in its interest to do so?

Al-Izzy Asselwi, Yemen Times.

Mansoor Rajih Continues to Wither Away in Prison: Norwegian Visitors Petitioning on Yemen's Most Famous Prisoner of Conscience Left Empty-handed

A 4-person Norwegian team representing the Norwegian Authors Association, who had spent eight days in Yemen trying to convince Yemeni officials to let go of Mansoor Rajih, left Yemen empty handed. "We left Sanaa with heavy hearts," they wrote from Oslo. They also vowed not to forget the courage and spiritual strength of Mansoor Rajih, Yemen's most famous prisoner of conscience. "We will convey your message to the world... and will intensify efforts and international pressure to secure your release" they promised. Mr. Rajih was visited by the Norwegians in the Taiz Central Prison, which has been his home since 1982. Their findings are indeed disheartening. "The man weighs less than 45 kilograms and is withering away. He urgently needs medical care," they told Foreign Minister Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani.



The Norwegian Foreign Minister has officially written to Dr. Al-Iryani advising him of the decision of the Government of Norway to offer political asylum and medical care for Mr. Rajih. The Norwegian ambassador to Yemen, who conveyed the message, pleaded with the Yemeni authorities to let go of 'a very sick man'. Yemen's poet and writer is a prisoner of conscience who has been framed by the authorities in order to get even with him because of his political thoughts and

beliefs. A murder charge was trumped up and thus his life was ruined.

This year's International Gathering of Writers which met in Oslo on September 27th announced Mansoor as a victim of oppression, and vowed to continue to work on his case.

Abdul-Ilah Al-Marwani, the lawyer who has been working on Mansoor Rajih's case on a voluntary basis, told the Yemen Times that the Yemeni authorities have just missed an important opportunity to set the record straight and to rid themselves of a problem. "I regret our officials could not see light," he said.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Role of Rumors in Decision-Making in Yemen

If there is any one over-riding characteristic of the Yemeni public life, it is that we are a society given to gossip. Spreading rumors is an important past-time. Well folks, it doesn't end there. Rumors and counter-rumors are a solid base for decision-making in the Republic of Yemen. This is true for government, business, and private life. Thus, people with a stake in certain decisions have perfected the art of rumor-spreading in order to serve their own interests. They even employ the services of rumor mongers towards that end. Let us talk specifics.

1. Political Rumors:
There is hardly a week that passes by without new rumors being flushed out onto society. You hear that Mr. So and So is coming back to the country. You hear of an eminent formation of a new government. You hear of a break-up of this or that party. You hear many things. One of the many problems of journalism in Yemen is how to check and re-check such rumors, especially when they do have a factual origin. They are often blown out of proportion or twisted, but they often have an original base.

2. Economic Rumors:
The fate of the Yemeni currency - the Riyal - continues to be fair game to the rumor mongers. Economic ties with Saudi Arabia and the prospects of the return of Yemeni immigrant laborers is another. A third is the fate of the Aden Free Zone. Many businessmen are forced to consider these rumors, especially since they do affect decision-making and the overall climate.

3. Social Rumors:
The third main theme of rumors is social issues. Mr. So and So is going to re-marry. A small clique of like-minded individuals is being formed for special gatherings. Women are especially hurt by social rumors which have led to many family problems. Question: Why is it that we have become a society of rumors, and why is it that we base our decision on rumors? Two factors come to my mind.

A: We have a lot of free time. Some of this is used in qat chews, which themselves offer fertile ground for bouncing off rumors.
B: We do not have a factual documentation system against which rumors can be checked.
That is all folks!

The Publisher
Signature



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European Parliamentarian Envisages an Association Agreement between Yemen and the European Union

A four-man parliamentary delegation concluded a three-day visit to Yemen during 26-29 September, 1995. They are Ingo Friedrich (PPE, Germany) team leader, Niall Andrews, (UPE, Ireland), Luigi Colajanni (PSE, Italy), and Edward Kellert-Bowman (PPE, UK). On the occasion, Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Friedrich. Excerpts:

Q: Why are you interested in Yemen?

A: In the European Parliament we have delegations and committees focussing on various parts of the world. I chair the Committee on the Mashreq and Arabian Peninsula. So, every now and then, we undertake field visits to the countries which fall within our regions.

Q: Which countries have you visited, so far?

A: Yemen is the last leg in a three-country program. We have already visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Q: How have your meetings in Yemen gone?

A: We had a charged program. We saw the Speaker of the Parliament, the Prime Minister, Vice Prime Minister for Planning and Development, the Minister of Trade and Supply, the Foreign Minister, and other officials. We have also met with some of the opposition politicians, public figures, etc.

Q: What is your initial feeling about Yemen's transformation towards Democracy?

A: Yemen is trying to transform itself into a democracy, and the record so far is very impressive. That in such few years you have these successes says a lot about



Yemen's commitment. Democracy is a long and arduous process, and we would like to help out in any way we can in making your efforts succeed.

Q: Are you also looking into specific aspects of the democratization process like human rights, freedom of the press, political pluralism?

A: Yes, we are. Let me take each of those.

Regarding human rights, the record is far better than the other countries in the region with which we work. Of course, the situation can be improved, especially regarding women's rights. But we are measuring that in terms of the local socio-culture - Islam. But even in this context, the situation of women in Yemen is much better.

Regarding freedom of the press, as soon as we read the Yemen Times on the plane flying into Sanaa, we knew we were in a different setting. As we arrived some ambassadors gave us back

issues of the Yemen Times and we felt the dynamism and freedom enjoyed by the media.

Regarding political pluralism, of course there are different political parties in Yemen.

In short, compared with other countries in the same area, in the same situation and in the same state of development, Yemen is on the top of the list.

Q: You said you wanted to help Yemen. What is in the package?

A: We are thinking at different levels of economic cooperation. We have aid, which we shall continue to support and promote. Then there is trade, investments, tourism and other forms of economic activities in which we can join hands. Finally, in the medium run, it is possible to envisage an association status between Yemen and the European Union just like other countries in the region have done.

Q: Your Parliament has an

advisory role. What kind of powers does it enjoy in decision making?

A: The (European) Parliament's influence has grown enormously. Since the first elections of our parliament in 1979, we have played a more visible role in policy and decision-making.

Q: How much satisfied are you with progress on European unity?

A: One is never really satisfied, although much progress has been achieved. A pessimist would see a glass half empty, and an optimist would see the same glass half full. It all depends on how you see it. I am certain European integration will continue and we will see great progress in the near future.

Q: Your present visit has taken you to Saudi Arabia in Kuwait? Are you in any way comparing the three countries?

A: That is a very interesting question. Each country is different. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are economically far better off than Yemen, but I feel that Yemen is politically more dynamic. We see a lot more individual initiative in this country whereas the state is more present in the other two.

Q: Have you initiated coordination efforts with the Yemeni parliament?

A: Yes, we have. We have extended an invitation to our colleagues to come and visit us in Europe for more consultations.

Q: Any last word you want to add?

A: From our point of view, South Arabia is very important. We shall do all we can to make sure the region is stable and prospers.

Italian Navy Ship Calls on Aden

The Italian navy ship - the Orsa Maggiore - is presently on call at Aden harbor. The ship, built in December 1994, has called on four other ports in the Indian Ocean before it arrived at Aden harbor on September 26th. They will leave on October 4th on their way to Malta, and then Tuscany, Italy.

The Italian ambassador, Mr. Vitaliano Napoleone, is headed to Aden to host the ship's commander and crew.

This is the first time an Italian navy ship calls on Yemen since the civil war.

Yemen Aids Bosnia

Yemen's aid package to Bosnia was hand-delivered last month. The package consisted of a financial donation of US\$ 4 million and 12 tons of medical supplies. The money was raised from the general public through direct contributions which exceeded YR 600 million.

Lawyer Is Accused of Apostasy

Lawyer Abdulaziz Al-Samawi was subjected to physical assault one month ago while the Primary Western Sanaa Court was in session. To add insult to injury, the lawyer was accused by the presiding judge of apostasy. Furthermore, the accusation was quickly transferred to a 'friendly' the Sanaa Court of Appeals.

Lawyer Al-Samawi who denies the accusation, has appealed asking that the 'friendly' judge (to the accuser) may not preside over the case. Intellectual circles are disturbed with this matter.

MRF XI beat YCC

At the Al-Towrah Stadium on 29th September the MRF XI gained an easy win over the YCC.

The YCC batted first and were soon in serious trouble with wickets falling at 5, 7, 11, 19 and 24 runs. Galal steadied the situation slightly before he fell to a catch by Sheshadri off Raju for 13 with the score at 40. The last wicket to fall was that of Toufig caught by Prem off Raju for 7 with the total at 48. Thereafter an excellent stand by Shabir (13 not out) and Shakeel (35 not out) brought the YCC score to a semi respectable 99 for 7 wickets in the mandatory 25 overs. Khan was the best MRF bowler with 3 for 15 in 5 overs.

MRF opened slowly losing both Prem and Mani for a total score of only 20. The incoming Sheshadri swung the game very much towards MRF scoring a six and three fours before being bowled by Waris for 24. Waris continued to bowl well dismissing another three batsmen. MRF wickets fell at 57, 71, 80 and 91 but Rueban saw the score safely past the YCC total in the 20th over. Waris was the best YCC bowler with 4 wickets for 20 in five overs, one maiden. Sheshadri was awarded "Man of the Match" which must have been closely run with Waris. No points were awarded towards the "Fielder of the Season".

SCORES

| YCC | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Khushdil, Run Out | 1 |
| Nissar, bowled Khan | 0 |
| Zafer, LBW bowled Sheshadri | 4 |
| Zafer, bowled Khan | 1 |
| Waris, bowled Khan | 7 |
| Galal, caught Sheshadri, bowled Raju | 13 |
| Shabir, not out | 7 |
| Toufig, caught Prem bowled Raju | 7 |
| Shakeel, not out | 35 |
| Extras | |
| TOTAL for 7 wickets | 18 |
| Did not bat: Nafis and Mobin. | 99 |
| MRF XI | |
| Prem, caught Waris, b Nissar | 2 |
| Mani, bowled Nissar | 7 |
| Imran, C & B Waris | 17 |
| Sheshadri, bowled Waris | 24 |
| Khan, bowled Waris | 10 |
| Benson, bowled Mobin | 5 |
| Raju, bowled Waris | 9 |
| Rueban, not out | 5 |
| Prakash, not out | 0 |
| Extras | 21 |
| TOTAL for 7 wickets | 100 |
| Did not bat: Jeff and Augustine. | |

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Abdul-Hadi Al-Hamdani: "The PGC plays a vital role in Yemen's democratization process."

The People's General Congress (PGC) is by far the country's most important political party. It is also Yemen's leading centrist party. Most of the leading figures in the state and government belong to it.

Dr. Abdul-Hadi Al-Hamdani, is Chair of the Political and International Relations Department of the PGC. He represents the party in many of the political meetings and in its dealings with the international community.

Dr. Al-Hamdani is also the head of the Business Administration Department at Sanaa University. With a long record of service in the army, security, government and the diplomatic corps, Abdul-Hadi is well-connected and well-informed.

Al-Izzy Asselwi of Yemen Times interviewed Dr. Al-Hamdani and filed the following report.

Q: The PGC recently had its Fifth General Congress. What has come out of that?

A: Of course, you know that the party was re-structured and elections were carried out for its main organs. We also discussed the recent developments, and what we want for the future of Yemen. There are also the many committees that are preparing the by-laws and internal regulations of the party. That is why it took a full ten days to complete all the work.

We also drew up the initial program for the parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 1997. In my opinion, the Fifth General Congress was a watershed in the party's evolution.

Q: How solid is the partnership with the Islah?

A: PGC officials, starting from the president, all the way down to simple officials, have repeated that we see our alliance with the

Islah as a strategic one. This does not mean that we do not have differences, nor does it mean that they or the PGC cannot meet with other parties. We have our continued contacts with each other as well as with other parties.

Q: But there evidence of violent clashes among PGC and Islah members?

A: I think, at times, it is normal to see differences among the rank and file of the two partners. But those differences are neither important nor far-reaching. They are easily contained. You will recall that we have an agreement directing our partnership, and then there are the constitution and laws. There are also our agreements regarding the government's program. Having said that, let me mention the Supreme Joint Committee that has recently been established in order to overcome any problems and to resolves differences at an



early stage.

Q: How do you perceive relations with the YSP?

A: In my opinion, the YSP has first got to put its act together. It has not yet been able to reach a unified vision and approach to the events that have happened, and the future prospects. I feel there is a place for the YSP provided it is able to see light and take a responsible position vis-avis the future of Yemen.

Q: How do you explain the schism and splintering of opposition parties?

A: I think it is a normal process

for parties to break up if the leading elements within it do not share the same vision. I think most of these parties believe in democracy just on paper. They do not practice it, hence the schism and differences. We in the PGC are often blamed for such developments, whereas we see them as internal affairs of those parties.

Q: How do you see Yemen's political evolution progressing?

A: I am sure you will agree that we have come a long way in our democratic transformation. Any objective observer will see that

Yemen is an open country which is trying hard to modernize itself along liberal lines. This is, of course a difficult task, but we have made a commitment and there is no turning back.

Q: What is the role of the PGC in this transformation process?

A: The PGC is the leader as well as catalyst in the democratization process. I think that the PGC plays the most vital role, though all other political parties, associations, syndicates, and even public figures have a role to play. I think that we all should join hands in order to make this experiment a success.

Q: Any final comment?

A: Let me commend you on the excellent effort of the Yemen Times. This newspaper is the first source of information for the international community residing in Yemen and to our visitors. It also partly forms the impression of foreigners as well as Yemenis. Therefore, I would like to point to the enormous responsibility you have in our democratization process as well as in our relations with other countries. I hope you keep that in mind when you go about your work and report the various stories and incidents in Yemen.

ألف مبروك

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"A possible breakthrough in the Yemeni-Kuwaiti Relations."

Last week a delegation from Kuwait concluded a visit to Yemen. That was the first official delegation to do so since the end of the Gulf War. The delegation representing two sides of the economic sector: the investment or capital sector and the labor sector. Salwa Al-Sanabani of Yemen Times interviewed the head of the group, Mr. Thabet Ibrahim Al-Haroun, Chairman of the General Federation of Kuwaiti Laborers. Excerpts:

Q: What is the main objective of the visit to Yemen?

A: Almost a year ago, contacts were made between myself and the chairman of the General Federation of Labor Unions in Yemen. It was agreed to arrange a meeting of the two federations. I met my Yemeni counterpart, Mr. Yahya Mohammed Al-Kohlani, who explained the real position of the Yemeni people on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

When I heard this view, my colleagues and I in the Executive Council of the General Federation of Kuwaiti Laborers decided to come to Yemen and to get a first hand point of view at both the popular, the official and even the opposition party views.

Q: What did you find out?

A: In truth, during my presence here in Yemen I heard what is not known in Kuwait. All the Yemenis showed total understanding of the plight of the Kuwaiti people. They assured us that they never supported the Iraqis regime in its occupation of Kuwait.



They all showed a sincere desire to restore relations. To achieve that, we must sit together and discuss openly and candidly. This is what President Ali Abdullah Saleh also confirmed when he stated that he agreed with the Kuwaiti position. This viewpoint, really pleases the Kuwaiti people who now wish for the restoration of brotherly relations between the two peoples. Our interests are mutual, our future, hopes and aspirations are one and the same.

Q: Can you briefly describe how your federation started and what are its important achievements?

A: The Kuwaiti constitution contains articles which give the

Kuwaitis the right to set up democratic associations. This means to form labor syndicates.

The first labor union was set up in 1964 and as more unions were set up, the General Federation was established in 1967. The task of the General Federation is to upgrade the living standards of its members and to bring stability to the lives of laborers.

Our achievements are many, whether pertaining to continuous increases in salaries, social security and other benefits. In short, let me say that we are governed by a very progressive law.

We also have very extensive relations, internationally and within the Arab World with similar associations.

Q: How do Kuwaitis view the exchange of labor between the two countries?

A: Since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, many of the Yemeni workers who had lived in Kuwait left the country. With further efforts, it is hoped that Yemeni laborers can return to Kuwait.

Q: What specific proposals did you present to the Yemenis in this context?

A: We did not present any proposals, since that is not part of the mission of this visit. We came here to express the Kuwaiti viewpoint and to explain the present situation with regard to Iraq's continuing threats to Kuwait. More important, we came to explain the case of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq - about 625 persons. I am sure that the Yemeni people do not agree to holding these people against their will by the Iraqis. Thus we hope that Iraq will be pressured to release them.

Q: Are you happy with the results of your visit?

A: I believe this visit was productive and represents a landmark in our relations. The visit will get the attention of both the Yemeni and Kuwaiti leaders.

Q: Did you invite your Yemeni counterparts to visit Kuwait?

A: Of course!

Q: Any last comment?

A: I would like to congratulate Yemen on the 26th September.

Yemen Ornithological Society to Take Part in World's Biggest Birdwatch

WORLD BIRDWATCH 1995 aims to highlight the plight of birds throughout the world, and the urgent need to conserve their habitat. Around 200 organizations in 100 countries will take part. The event follows the great success of World Birdwatch 1993, when a similar weekend drew out more than a million people across the world birdwatching in one day, and thousands saw for the first time what a rich and wonderful natural world is there to be enjoyed. Many then realized the need to take action to protect the environment which is under serious threat all over the world. The problems facing the habitat of the birds, in particular, and the environment, in general, include such issues as deforestation, pollution, drainage of wetlands and new, intensive farming methods.



During the weekend of October 12th and 13th, the Yemen Ornithological Society, in partnership with the Yemen Environmental Protection Society, plans to visit some of Yemen's major bird areas, to look at birds, and to introduce those who may be interested to ways in which we can together help to conserve Yemen's rich natural heritage for the future. Latest figures show that some 100 species of birds are seriously threatened with extinction now, and there is increasing determination to do something to prevent this happening.

People who are interested in birdwatching, or in getting involved with conservation issues, are welcome at all Y.O.S. activities. They are invited to contact with Dr. Scott Kennedy, on (01) 412040, or Pierre Mazars on (01) 231256.

By:
Dr. Dereck Harvey,
YOS, Sanaa.

بمناسبة أعياد ثورة سبتمبر وأكتوبر

تتقدم

وزارة الإنشاءات والتخطيط الحضري (فرع عدن)

بأخلص وأصدق التهاني القلبية للشعب اليمني والحكومة والقيادة

السياسية، متمنية للشعب اليمني دوام الأفراح والانتصارات

Ministry of Construction & Urban Planning
(Aden branch)

presents its heartfelt felicitations
to the Yemeni people, government & political leadership
on the anniversary of the September 26th Revolution.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

1000 Imams!

"I have got to say it, if it wasn't for the Revolution, we would not have any reason to see clean streets, painted storefronts and street curbs", said the man as he got off the mini-bus, hitting his head on the top of the door until his turban was pushed back 45 degrees from its original up-right position.

His brother Sadiq was a staunch Republican and he reminded him, "Look, if it was not for the Republic, you would not see paved streets, or curbs or anything that modern cities should have".

"My complaint was not against the Republic", What I am puzzled by is that every time September comes around all of a sudden the Municipality of Sana'a and every other city remember that people should have clean streets and a half-way decent looking metropolis", said his elder brother.

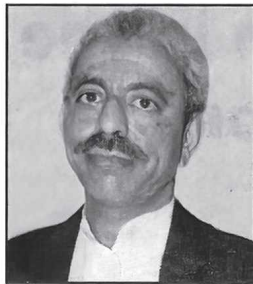
"Fadhil, I think you still feel that the Revolution was wrong; you always complain," said the younger brother while looking at the "Marid", the first tank that shot at the Imam's palace 33 years ago.

"Look, Sadiq, I was one of the troops that participated in the 1955 attempted Revolution, and in the September Revolution said Fadhil, with apparent pride, as he walked beside his brother, in a more indifferent gait.

"But you fought with the Royalists against the Republic," said Sadiq.

"No, no, I did not fight with the Royalists," said Fadhil. "You were young then, but your

brother, like many other troops in the Army, were surprised by the way the Revolution was all of a sudden in the hands of some individuals who all of a sudden turned into the heroes of the cause. These kind of people are readily transferable into heroes for any cause that comes along which they can ride on after they are assured that they will have guaranteed safety and no sacrifice will ever be called for by them. In fact such people in my books are characterized by a lack of sincere patriotism and they really acted out of league with what many true Revolutionaries had in mind, when deciding to join in the fight against the Imamate. Soon after the Revolution, we were busy consolidating the positions of the Republic in the various areas of the country, while these new opportunists that clung to the Republic started executing people left and right and went on a wild witch-hunt against members of the Imam's former regime. The Egyptian Army came in and some of these opportunists got carried away in their attitude towards many who had achieved the status of being "national leaders," on the pretext that they were "dangerous" to the republic and could act as a "fifth column" for the Royalists, which many people did not agree with. When some of us came back from the field, we were surprised to find how many people had been executed or were under arrest. We tried to convince the people who had taken charge that many of those killed or under arrest



could be of great help to the Republic, in view of the respect they had among the people, but to no avail. They even doubted our loyalty. They started sending people like us to the most dangerous war zones in the hope that we would get out of their way. Yet Ali Abdul Moghni, Kassim Al-Amir, and many patriotic Revolutionaries all took their missions seriously and fought valiantly without any hesitation, wherever the battle was. The fate of many of these brave men was tragic. Some of us who luckily made it, returned to Sana'a to find that the opportunists became more cozy with the Egyptian Officers and it seemed that our influence in the affairs of the country has been assured to be of little significance. In fact, I was accused of "deserting" because I had "fled" from a battle that was surely to end in our defeat, considering the fact that we were greatly outnumbered, although our commander then, Ali Abdul Moghni had insisted that we retreat, just before he was shot. But our newly founded heroes had passed judgment that I should be arrested or possibly be executed. I went to my new commander, a truly great patriot, and told him what I heard. He went to the Army Headquarters, and sure enough he saw my name in the "suspected" personnel list. He raised a lot of hell, until one of the other patriotic officers, whispered in his ear, not to make too much of a fuss, or else they will

put his name on the list also.

The guy came back to me and told me to go under and fast. I had no choice but to go back to our tribe, which was mostly allied with the Royalists, then.

"But you should have gone to a Republican area rather than to a Royalist one," Sadiq pointed out.

"Let me finish!" said Fadhil, as he continued his diatribe on the early days of the Republic. "Just before that, Mohammed

Mahmoud Al-Zubeiry, was killed mysteriously. I was in the Great Mosque in Sana'a when Ahmed

Nu'uman, the famous outspoken member of the Free Yemenis movement, made the announcement that the father of the free

Yemenis had been mysteriously killed. In his emotional speech, Nu'uman repeated the question often in his emotional speech,

"Who actually killed him?" There was speculation that he was killed by the opportunists in the Republic. When I saw that even

Zubeiri was not safe from the opportunistic elements that have missed the path which the Republic was supposed to pursue,

especially in its early days, I thought of what could happen to a common junior officer like me?"

But, you must agree with me that if it was not for the Egyptians, the Republic would not have survived", interrupted Sadiq.

"The Egyptians did not have a chance to see how the opportunists had taken advantage of them. But anyway, the Republic did survive, and most of those opportunists have either been finished or vanished from the memories of the people," Fadhil continued enlightening his brother.

"While the Egyptians had given so much for Yemen's freedom, I wish they had not been able to transfer some of the bureaucratic methods that plague the Egyptian administrative structure to Yemen, which now the Egyptians themselves are trying to get rid of in their own country. It has been a big negative aspect in our govern-

ment," Sadiq remarked.

"The bureaucracy you see now was not the work of only the Egyptians had left who came to Yemen; the bureaucracy you see now was not even in the imagination of anyone, at that time. There was some transfer of Egyptian bureaucratic techniques, but what we have now is really "Third world bureaucracy", which comes from regimes that rely on the support of interest groups and power centers in the society. Bureaucratic entanglements help keep these elements of society under firm control of the resources of all of the society. The general public is pushed away from sharing from the benefits of these resources by this bureaucracy so that only a tiny fraction of the society can reap all the fruit. Every Third World society suffers from it. Even those that claim being "democracies" are not free from large bureaucratic mazes," Fadhil clarified to his brother.

Sitting near the "Marid", Sadiq was watching the Bar'a dance which had attracted a crowd in the middle of Liberation Square, which was a common scene during the festivities of the anniversary of the Revolution. He told his brother, who had just joined him after coming back from the newspaper stand with some newspapers in his hand,

"Fadhil, going back to the Revolution and the war that followed it, one must admit that the Yemenis still had faith in the Republic."

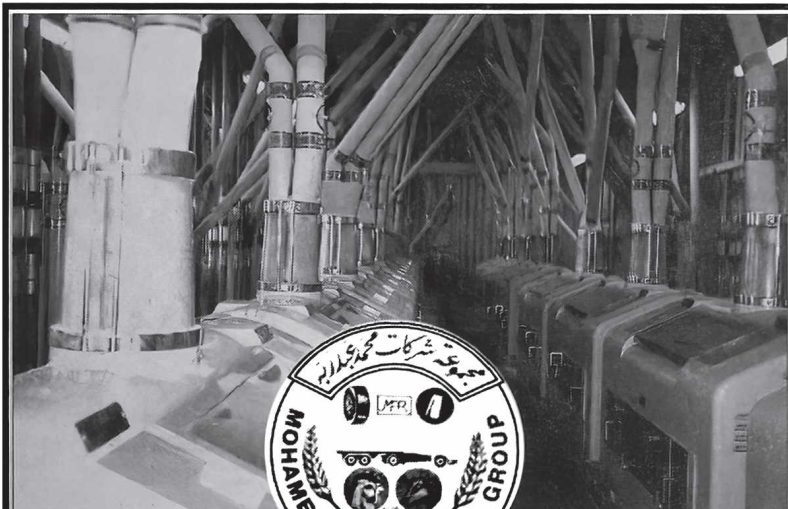
Look at the courage which was shown by the many thousands who rushed to defend the Republic from the advancing Royalist guerrillas, that had besieged Sana'a. They came from all over Yemen. Though the fighting was tough, and despite the limited means, the Royalists guerrillas were repulsed quickly, to the astonishment of the entire world."

Fadhil added to Sadiq's recollection. "Which goes to show you that deep in the Yemeni's hearts, they are really Republican. Once

the Egyptians left, I remember rushing back to Sana'a, just before the siege of the city, with hundreds of other people from my tribe who joined me. After we saw that the Hamid Al-Din family had not changed much even after living in caves for six years. We had no desire to see them back in power again. We knew it was going to be a tough fight, but we had no other illusions except to see Yemen as a modern Republic. I was not the only one. Even some of the

Royalist commanders like General Qassim Munassar, Sheikh Naji Al-Ghadir, all defected from the Royalists once the Egyptians left and the opportunists were shoved aside, and they saw that the Royalists could not get their act together. Once these two defected, we were sure that the Royalists had no hope. Even Saudi Arabia, under the late King Faisal, wisely saw that dealing with a Yemeni Republic as a neighbor would be more logical than restoring the Imamate. They must have had a difficult time with them when they were their allies, during the Civil War. Thus, Yemen was to carry on as a democracy. Many of us were so happy to see the Republic take on a more nationalistic stand, and the opportunists who had spoiled the image of the Republic were gone. The reconciliation between those who fought with the Royalists was a success and the Republic greeted most of them with open arms as they returned to their homes and their jobs.

Someone who had just joined them than added; "Look you guys, you keep reminiscing about the difficult struggle against one Imam, who gave the whole country such a hard time for so many years. What do we do now with the thousand Imams that are now dominating the country living in the extravagance that even the Caliphs of Baghdad never dreamed of, as extravagant as they were?"



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A Specialist Advises to Close Down Third World Central Banks !

Central banks are a curse on developing countries. This is something investors should keep in mind when deciding whether to put money in developing markets. As more countries dump their central banks, new investment opportunities will present themselves. Keep this in mind: Eighty-five percent of the world's population resides in the developing countries. Most of these countries have their own central banks. And most have a terrible record. They produce little more than high rates of inflation and third-rate currencies. Last year the 132 developing countries registered a weighted average inflation rate of 48%. At that rate it will take only five years for inflation to destroy 86% of the value of those countries' currencies. You invest in these countries at your peril. To avoid being robbed by inflation, many citizens in developing countries unload their third-rate currencies like hot potatoes, surreptitiously replacing them with "state" currencies. That is why about 30% to 40% of the German marks and 60% to 70% of the US dollars in circulation are used abroad, rather than domestically.

When people prefer even the flimsy dollar to their own currencies, it is a sign that something is badly wrong. What is wrong in many cases is the central bank. But, if not central banks, then what? There are two alternatives for developing countries: A stable foreign currency can be used either directly via "dollarization", or indirectly via a currency board. The most recent country to question the wisdom of central banking is little El Salvador. After a careful study of the matter, the government determined that there were only two benefits to having a national currency: the seigniorage earned through the inflation tax and the national symbolism attached to having its own money in circulation. The people running the country finally realized that these benefits were trivia in comparison with the costs of retaining the central bank. This benefit-cost calculus is noteworthy because El Salvador's central bank has a good record, when measured against other developing countries. Even during the height of El Salvador's civil war, annual inflation reached only

33% and last year it was 10.8%. As part of a plan to rid itself of a central bank, the Salvadorian government recently announced that it would start replacing the colon with the US dollar during the first half of 1996. By riding on the coattails of the Federal Reserve, El Salvador will have a relatively stable currency. In addition, it will have absolutely no exchange rate risks vis-à-vis the dollar because there will be no exchange rate. Coupled with El Salvador's far-reaching, free-market reforms, dollarization will lower inflation to US levels and further fuel economic growth, which was a solid 5.8% in 1994. Investors take note. El Salvador's government paper is yielding 12%. Panama has been dollarized for a number of years, with excellent results. During the 1990s economic growth averaged 6.74%, while inflation, on average, was a mere 1.28%. For developing countries that do not want to forgo the benefits of issuing their own money and earning seigniorage, a foreign currency can be used indirectly. This can be accomplished by

replacing the central bank with a currency board. Under this arrangement, the national money issued by a board is fully backed with a reserve currency and is freely convertible with the reserve currency at a permanently fixed exchange rate. One of the advantages of a currency board system is that the reserve assets it holds, usually US government bonds, earn interest for the government, while the corresponding liabilities—that is, the nation's currency—do not pay interest. So the government makes a profit. Argentina installed a currency board-like system on Apr. 1, 1994. I first alerted readers of this column to the investment opportunities being served up in Argentina in my Dec. 19, 1994 column. This year's top-ranked mutual funds in Argentina, the Toronto Trust, followed that advice and fully invested in peso-denominated Argentine debt. Since Jan. 1, the Toronto Trust is up by almost 50%. Some peso-denominated government bonds are still yielding about 27%. Adjusted for country risk, these bonds continue to provide excellent investment vehicles. As more countries dump their central banks, there will be other investment opportunities. Watch for them.

By: Steve H. Hanke,
Prof. of Applied Economics,
The John Hopkins University,
Baltimore.

Article is published in *Forbes*,
September 25th, 1995.

Policy-Oriented Seminar on Fiscal/Monetary Reforms

"What is happening to the Riyal exchange rate, in particular, and the economic reform package, in general, are issues that are being heatedly debated among the general public. That is why we thought it would be a good idea to shed light on them," explained Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Coordinator for an upcoming seminar on Fiscal and Monetary Reforms in Yemen.

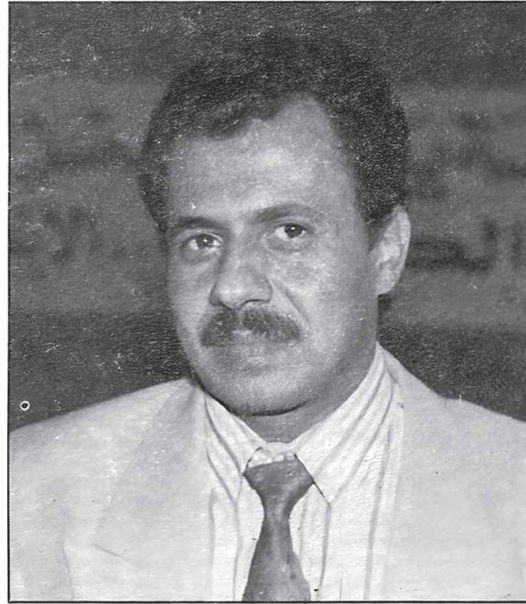
The seminar, scheduled for February 1996, brings together academicians and practitioners in order to assess the situation, and give practical advice which can be used by policy-makers. "In the several meetings the Preparatory Committee has held, we have already decided on a number of issues. We have agreed on the structure of the seminar, its theme, and the papers to be presented," Al-Maitami said.

Members in government, the banking and business communities, academicians, and foreign investors will be invited to be actively engaged. "We are now drawing up the final list of speakers, and we will then draw up the list of invitees," he explained.

The Preparatory Committee includes seven well-known economists who are also engaged in government and/or business. They are:

Dr. Abdo, Abdul-Qader Ali;
Dr. Amer, Abdul-Kareem;
Dr. Al-Asali, Saif;
Dr. Al-Bishari, Ahmed;
Dr. Al-Maitami, Mohammed;
Dr. Al-Saedi, Mutahhar; and
Dr. Al-Saqqaf, Abdulaziz.

"The orientation of the seminar will be towards policies. That is why, we will have an initial theoretical paper that will lay the ground rules for economic reforms, and then quickly proceed with the sectoral papers, which are actually case studies," Al-Maitami said. "Hopefully, the seminar will yield specific steps that can be taken by the officials and business community in order



to re-align the economy."

The condition of the Yemeni economy is indeed very troubling. "The superficial improvements in the exchange rate notwithstanding, I think there are troubling signs ahead. I am talking about the stagnation that is due to lack of any real investments coupled with a very high unemployment rate. Add to that an inflation rate that is very high, though it is presently on a temporary hold. Unless we bite the bullet, we are headed for some rough times," explained the Coordinator of the seminar.

Dr. Al-Maitami also indicated that the politicians should not feel comfortable with the recent improvements in the Riyal exchange rate. "This is very temporary and was manipulated by mobilizing lots of forces. I believe that the exchange rate will exceed - before the end of the year - the YR 165 per dollar ceiling we had in the recent past.

Sometimes when professionals give their candid advice, they are belittled if the advice does not fall well with the declarations and announcements of the politicians.

This has been the case with Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who announced that the dollar will go up vis-à-vis the riyal, one way or another. Rumor was circulated around town that Dr. Saqqaf has large dollar savings and that it was in his interest for the dollar to rise vis-à-vis the riyal. That of course was a cheap tactic to silence anybody who does not agree with officialdom. "We are asking Dr. Ahmed Osman, Head of the World Bank office in Yemen to join in the discussions. The idea is to include all parties involved in the policy-making process," Dr. Al-Maitami indicated.

By: Anwar Al-Sayyidi,
Yemen Times.

عظم الله أجركم آل البركاني

بقلوب يملؤها الحزن والأسى نتقدم بأحر التعازي لأسرة الفقيه العزيز الغالي الأستاذ / عبدالجليل يحيى البركاني الذي وافته المنية يوم ١٩٩٥/٨/٨.

نسأل الله أن يتغمد الفقيد أبو حمزة بواسع رحمته ويدخله فسيح جناته، ويلهم جميع آل البركاني الصبر والسلوان، ولا تقول إلا ما يرضي الله سبحانه.

وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

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How Much for your \$

The dollar exchange rate in Riyals has more or less stabilized this week. On Friday September 29th, the exchange rate was YR 86 per US dollar. While that was the buying rate, dollars were not available for sale.

نداء إلى أهل الخير

نتمنى من أهل الخير مساعدة طفل يبلغ من العمر ثلاثة أشهر يعاني من ثقب في القلب وصفار الكبد ويحتاج لفحوصات كثيرة وغالية.

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عمارة الكاف-شقة رقم ٤- المعلا
تلفون: ٢٤١٦١٧ (٠٢)

ألف مبروك



أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نتقدم بها إلى الأخ/
العابد علي أحمد العابد
بمناسبة نجاحه في
الثانوية العامة القسم
العلمي بمعدل ٩١٪،

فألف مبروك ، وإلى مزيد من التقدم.
المهزون:
العزي الصلوي، علي أحمد العابد،
عبدالكريم علي سيف.

تهنئة

نهني من الأماق الأخ الأستاذ / محمد بن ناصر الفضالة
بمناسبة الترقية الجديدة، وإلى الأمام إنشاء الله.

المهزون:

سعادة السفير محمد علي الأنصاري وكافة أعضاء السفارة القطرية بصنعاء ،
د. عبدالعزيز السقاف وكافة طاقم صحيفة "يمن تايمز"،
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الأستاذ / أحمد علي هوش ، الفنان إبراهيم حسين حميد ،
من سفارة الأردن: الأخ/ أحمد إدريس عناب، الأخ/ رياض جميل أبو كركي،
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من سفارة الكويت: الأخ/ منصور عبدالله العوضي ، الأخ/ بدر ناصر الفقعان

German Community in Yemen is Joined by Friends in its Festivities:

Germany Celebrates National Day



“A New Beginning for the Whole of Europe”

Klaus Kinkel has been Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany since 1992. In the following contribution, he outlines Germany's foreign policy and the key areas of future international cooperation.

Boundless joy - this was what the Germans felt when the Berlin Wall fell. What we have accomplished since then in terms of reconstruction inside Germany is certainly impressive. In our external relations, now, for the first time in our history, we are surrounded only by friends and partners. All this fills us with gratitude, pride and confidence. When the Iron Curtain collapsed, the whole of Europe gained the chance of a new beginning, a chance of which previous generations could only dream. By virtue of its history and importance, the united Germany has a special responsibility here, a responsibility we intend to live up to - in a European spirit, within a worldwide equal partnership, working for the rights of humanity and nature.

What does this mean in concrete terms? What are the major tasks of the future? European integration has the highest priority. The fundamental question remains that of the harmonious integration of our country into a free and functioning Europe that is close to its citizens. At the 1996 inter-governmental conference, the European Union will have to create the conditions that will enable it to meet the expectations of its citizens and cope with forthcoming expansions. The Union will grow from its present membership of 15 to include well over 20 member states. Now, after decades, the artificial division of Europe must finally be overcome. Prague, Warsaw and Budapest belong to Europe just as much as Rome, Paris or Berlin. Achieving this ambitious goal requires great effort. But it will be worth it. The union of Europe must not be allowed to distance America from us. NATO remains the foundation European security. Nev-

ertheless, the path across the Atlantic has to be widened. This is why in recent months I have been intensively seeking support for the project of a transatlantic free trade zone. The USA, Canada and the countries of the European Union live from international free trade, from open access to the markets of the future. Strengthening these framework conditions on a global basis must be our goal. Working with the Americans, we wish to achieve a tighter network of cooperative security in Europe through closer cooperation between NATO, the EU, the WEU and the OSCE. There can be no new dividing lines in Europe, no return to old confrontations. This is why involving Russia in this security architecture is crucially important.

The terrible war in the former Yugoslavia remains the measure of the new multilateral security policy that is now in place following the end of the East-West conflict. The peoples of this region will only find a solution at the negotiating table. They all belong to Europe. However, the murder and expulsion of civilian populations do not lead to membership of the European Union. This must be obvious to anyone who thinks about his position within the Europe of the future. The spread of weapons of mass destruction, migration caused by poverty, the destruction of the environment, and the population explosion all demand global answers. No state can solve these problems alone, this makes the United Nations more important today than when it was founded fifty years ago. Certainly, this organization is in need of reform, but those who criticize it must know that it can only be as effective as its members allow it to be. If the law of the jungle is not to prevail, there is no alternative to the United Nations. Our world can only become a safer and better place to live through cooperation between all UN members, through an equitable partnership between North and South. Strengthening the United Nations thus remains an important goal of

German foreign policy. This also includes a reform of the Security Council, whose composition no longer reflects today's world situation. The prolongation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was a sign that the community of states has recognized its responsibility in a field that is so important for security. Everything must be done to ensure that the current negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty can reach a successful conclusion next year. Nuclear weapons tests are no longer in keeping with the times. The preservation of human rights, democratization, the market economy and the rule of law represent the best means of preventing crises and are also the best foundation for lasting development. These are areas in which Germany will continue to be very active in the future.

The examples of Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region demonstrate the kind of dynamic growth a modernized society can achieve when it puts its trust in self-reliance, regional cooperation, and integration in the world market. Germany has placed its relations with these two growth regions on a new footing. In the process, both sides should and can reap mutual benefits. Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa have a great deal to give one another. This spring, in Berlin, the UN Conference on Climate Change represented an invitation from Germany to all its partners to actively join the debate on the ecological and economic problems as well as the future viability of our "one world". In five years time, under the heading "Humanity - Nature - Technology", "EXPO 2000" in Hanover - the first world fair to be held on German soil - will offer a major forum for the debate on the opportunities and dangers of the technology-led globalisation process. Passing on a habitable world to future generations is humanity's great task at the end of the second millennium. Here, the world can rely on Germany's cooperation, its sense of responsibility, and its solidarity.



“YEMEN IS NOT A COUNTRY FOR A DICTATOR.”

Dr. Helga Countess von Strachwitz has served as a German diplomat for some thirty years at home, as well as in various countries such as Sweden, Italy, Egypt, Kenya and Turkey. A mother of a son and a daughter, Helga was able to combine a successful career with a happy family life.

Dr. von Strachwitz is the first female ambassador to ever be appointed in the Arabian Peninsula. That is a record. Today she leads the German community in Yemen and contributes to Yemeni-German relations with much skill and devotion. That is why, though she has been here less than a year, she has already established herself in the diplomatic community and earned the respect and cooperation of Yemeni officials, media and the general public. On the occasion of the German national day - October 3rd - Yemen Times spoke to Dr. von Strachwitz.

Q: How do you feel about your assignment in Yemen?

A: I first visited Yemen in 1973 with my husband. We fell in love with the country and decided to come back. My husband since has died, but I have come back. Yemen is a beautiful and interesting country. The Yemeni people are embracing and kind. I must say that when the post was proposed to me, I accepted it, but asked our personnel department to find out if I can function as a female ambassador. After some researching, I was assured by the majority that I will be fine. I am happy I have come, and I feel a deep association with Yemen.

Q: Yemeni-German relations are described as special. What does that mean?

A: It all started during the period of explorations when this part of the world - Southern Arabia - caught the interest of explorers. German historians and archeologists were keen on knowing about the area that controlled the incense trade or the caravan route of the frankincense trade in the ancient world.

Somehow, there is a fairy tale or romantic notion attached to Yemen. But this notion is embedded in history and facts. It is not just dreams. Much has been written and published in Germany on Yemen.

Even during the Imam's time, German doctors, scientists and technicians came to Yemen. After the Revolution, the association grew stronger. Germans were among the first to come in.

Economic and cultural missions continued to flow in. In fact, Germans and Italians were among the most active Western missions after the Revolution.

Thus you have a deep association in the German mind. That is why, I think Germans probably represent the largest bulk of foreign tourists visiting Yemen.

Q: Does that also explain the fact that Germany is Yemen's largest aid partner?

A: I think so. German bilateral aid continues to flow into Yemen, and the commitment to continue is there. I have accurate aggregates for the bilateral aid which is DM 1.25 BILLION, but I think the total of German aid could well add up to DM 1.7 billion.



This does not include humanitarian aid, educational exchange or military packages. Neither does it include assistance to Yemen from regional organizations (like the EEC) and international organizations - to which Germany contributes generously.

Q: Given the enormous size of the German development aid to Yemen, are you satisfied with the impact of it?

A: In general, we consider our bilateral cooperation with Yemen a very successful one, and this is why it will continue. There are difficulties, of course, but they are mainly in the areas of administration. Delays in response (from the Yemeni side) to aid proposals occur. Other problems relate to selection of the right Yemeni counterparts. But this is expected, since Yemen is not yet perfect. If it were, then it would not require development aid. Let me mention here that our focus has shifted from infrastructure (like roads, airports, etc.) - as these have been developed relatively well - to human resources and utilities. Major individual projects include the sewerage project in Aden, the water and sewerage projects in secondary cities, and vocational training centers.

Q: Aid donors are now channelling aid more and more through NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations). Are you shifting focus?

A: We are now considering increasing the scope of work with NGO's. But this is nothing new. We have been doing it for a very long time. There are projects in women's areas, small scale initiatives, health units, etc.

We will bring up the matter in upcoming joint consultation meetings with the (Yemeni) government. We will strengthen this approach, but large projects must be channeled through the government.

Q: How about bilateral trade and investment?

A: I am afraid the volume of bilateral trade and investment does not reflect the

excellent bilateral relations between our countries. There could be much improvement here. We are working on it.

Q: How do you feel about Yemen's democratization efforts?

A: Yemen's democracy started some five years ago. It looks like this is a hopeful engagement and the picture is promising towards a modern democracy. Let me use an example to illustrate my point. When a parliamentary delegation visited Yemen (from Germany), we asked Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar (the speaker) if the delegation could attend a session. He said, "Yes, of course, we are just discussing the budget!"

Our parliamentary delegation, which included a member from the budgetary committee, was quite impressed by the dialogue and the way the government sat there facing questions from opposition members of Parliament.

In another sense, I feel that democracy in Yemen is deeply rooted and much older. Yemenis are very individualistic. You have a parallel democracy that is deeply rooted in your culture and traditions, while still developing a modern one. The trick is to bridge the two senses or levels of democracy.

Great care and effort must be made to make sure that such an effort goes in the right direction. All in all I do not think Yemen is a country for a dictator. At least, not anymore.

Q: Do you think that as a successful career woman you have an additional role to play in Yemen?

A: Let me start by saying I am not here to proselytize. But, I am sure men and women alike do see that women are capable of doing many things that men do, and as efficiently. I think that I can best play a role by doing my job well.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I am sure Yemeni-German relations will continue to grow. I feel very privileged to work in Yemen.

WHAT YEMENI LEADERS SAY OF GERMAN RE-UNIFICATION AND BILATERAL RELATIONS

“Yemenis and Germans have lived through similar momentous and joyous national occasions. We have both re-unified our nations in 1990. That gives us common and shared feelings and perceptions.”

President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

“German re-unification is an element of stability and prosperity for Europe as well as the world. I use this occasion and through the Yemen Times to convey my warm greetings and congratulations to the people and government of Germany.”

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani.

“Germany has been a generous aid partner of Yemen. The Yemeni people and government know this and they appreciate it. We enjoy exceptionally good relations. There isn't one issue that I can think of over which we have markedly divergent attitudes or positions.”

Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani.

AL-NOBA: A Pre-Islamic Architectural Treasure

By: Yassin Al-Haj Saeed,
Yemen Times.

The uniqueness of Yemeni architecture has captured the attention of the world. Buildings around the world have similar characteristics to include either a square or a rectangular construction shape. In Yemen, there is a third shape, which is a totally different - this is the circular tall construction called Al-Noba, and its plural is Nob.

This cylindrical shape construction is used in many parts of the country, but it is spread mostly in agricultural areas because it is used to guard the farms and their produce. This is why it was named Al-Noba, which in Arabic means performing guard duty. If you travel between Sanaa and Taiz/Aden by car, watch out for the many Nob on your way, especially in the area of Dhamar.

Al-Noba does not have any windows, but a small, low door for both the entrance and the exit, with small holes spread around the circular shaped wall. This style allows to see passers-by and their weapons, and it also enables the guard to aim and shoot at any intruder.

There is a second type of Nob which is bigger and multi-storied, is used for residences. Many Nob can be seen in the capital city of Sana'a, Sa'ada and many other towns and villages. Thus, certain varieties of Al-Noba function both as a guarding post and as a residence.

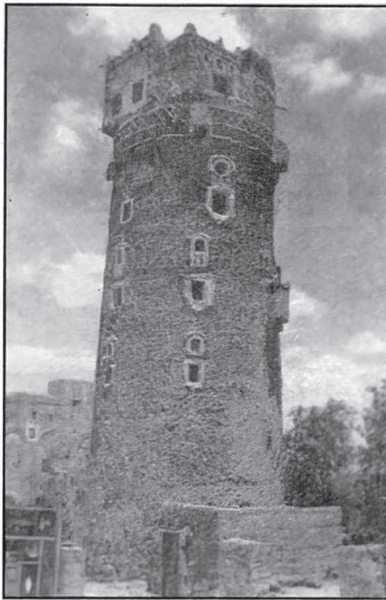
Nob are either built by stone or clay, or these days by cement blocks. The majority of the old Nob are built with clay, which is treated in a special way to keep it for a long time and to protect it from the effect of rain and other climatic factors. This clay is called Al-thaboor. Some clay Nob have stone bases rising to 1-2 meters above ground level. This resists the impact of seeping water, salt, etc.

Nob are divided into multiple levels or floors called *tarahat*, (singular *tarha*), which have specific functions. The ground level is specified for storage and an animal barn; the first floor contains the kitchen and bath rooms, and above that come the living and guest rooms.

Some Nob have a square building on top, built from rocks through wooden bridges shown above the circular wall. This part of the building is called the "Mafraj" which is normally the best furnished room. The Mafraj is used as a place to meet guests, chew qat and to hold family ceremonies.

Architects say that the circular shape of the Nob has many advantages, which include the building's firmness to the ground, especially when built from mud, and it also allows the building of more levels than a square building.

Historical findings and research confirm that Al-Noba is an ancient style of architecture in our country, existing before the Islamic era. Nob were



used as fortresses for defense, protection from invaders and for guarding towns and caravan routes. According to history books, Nob were rarely independent buildings. Nob were considered an integral part of castles, fortresses, citadels and the town's walls. Nob were built at equal distances on both sides of the gate to serve as a place for supervision and defense.

Al-Nob was considered by the explorers and researchers, an independent structural style after it was seen in various areas. The Nob in the historical Saada citadels, are a prime example. Other Nob that still exist are the remnants of the Haran fortress in Damar, claimed to be built during the reign of Sabaa and Dhu-Raydan - before Christ. Another historical Nob site is at Rima, which witnessed important events until the Turkish invasion to Yemen.

Although more or less abandoned in the modern architectural styles and artistic values of Yemen, Al-Nob is an important part of Yemeni architectural history. This fact explains why Yemeni architects urge on continuing this construction tradition. Indeed, it would be a shame if such an important architectural heritage is allowed to wither away.

BEIJINGOISM AS A CONCEPT

By: Aneesa Ghanem,
Yemen Times.

I was there, part of the worldwide female crowd that was in the tens of thousands. It was a mismatched blouse brigade that disrupted Beijing, just as much as Beijing disrupted our efforts.

If anybody tells you that they know what happened, you would be wise to have some doubt. The Yemen Times despatched me with a camera and a cassette recorder, presumably to write something meaningful. The fact that I took this long already tells you I am at a loss as to where to start and what to say.

Thanks to an Indian colleague of mine at the conference, we developed an idea together. Here is an alphabetic guide that will put you in the thick of things.

A: Abortion, Abuse and other forms of Aggression against women. Top of the women's Agenda is Affirmative Action.

B: Body, our own to be taken care and control of so as to be spared the Battering and Brutality. Also to realistically address the issue of Babies.

C: Consciousness, raising it is the crux of every conference, including Cairo and Copenhagen. Remember that important thing - Contraception.

D: Divorce, Degradation, Discrimination - all part of the same Distress syndrome. Development will help overcome it. Let us start with a Databank.

E: Empowerment of women - as a goal has overtaken Equality. Earth, yes our mother and we have to protect it.

F: Femissism, i. is what today's woman must be. Feminism, eminity, and Feminization. But watch out for Fundamentalism, like the earlier word, Feudalism, i. a negative word. Our folks here in the Middle East have contributed more than their share to this concept.

G: Gama'at Islamiyah is something to watch out for. Using God to undermine women has become a science.

H: Human Rights as in the hyped Hillary speech. Harassment is a catchword. Also HIV. No one will ever again ask "Huairou, what?"

I: Independence, usually economic, is what will free us from indignities.

J: Jealousy, exorcised from such shows of solidarity. "Oh yeah, how come your 'junkets' are bigger than mine?"

K: Keynote address. The first ladies and the strong affirmations.



L: Liberation, and the Literacy which will accelerate it. Also, Lesbians, especially their 'flirting techniques'.

M: Militants, Macha women, and the personification of men in the conference.

N: Networking, without which you achieve nothing. Worse, you go nowhere. NGOs do it best.

O: Oh S--t, I've left my slides behind.

P: Paradigm. Can be plugged into everything from Poverty to Power to Peace to Politics. Better keep the Pope out of it; he isn't too popular in these parts.

Q: Queues to collect conference satchels. Queen, which is now politically correct. Question, what do you do when your delegation has no role?

R: Roles, which is defined in the conference. Also, Revolt, which was the main item on the agenda.

S: Sexual politics. Sex workers. Social workers. All much in evidence.

T: Tibetans and their demands. Tents, the no-mod-cons accommodation for the unwelcome NGOs.

U: Upliftment, no relation to the bra-burning of the early Lib.

V: Victim. Vulnerability. Violence.

W: Wimmin, Woe-man. The Great Wall.

X: X-rated, the original enemy number one.

Y: Yes, to liberty, equality, sexuality -- and to better shuttle bus between Huairou and Beijing.

Z: Zedong, as in Mao, who said, "Women hold up half the sky." The Chinese authorities are never going to forgive him for that.

Final Note:

What do you call a male intruder at the women's conference? A Peking Tom.

Change Starts with the Mind!

Talking about law and order presupposes, first of all, throwing light on the views of people across the globe as reflected in their way of life.

Civilized people view order as the essence of the progressive process and that it can never be broken. In contrast, we find ourselves on top of a handful of nations where order is treated lightly.

We have instances of numerous speeches, articles and poems highlighting this angle and its disastrous consequences on society. It is a common concern shared by all those who suffer. Lack of discipline covers almost every sector in the country. One refers back to writing. In fact, the writing on the wall is quite clear and the consequences of disorder are great.

I am a fresh teacher of English, graduated in 1994-95 from the Faculty of Education in Taiz. I faced lots of trouble during my studies at college. For example, in my third year, I met with trouble concerning my results. A bad student's mark was added to my result in a subject which I had completed successfully and with an excellent grade, the year before. In the last year of university years, I faced two problems. The first problem was the inser-

tion of a subject which concerned somebody else to my results. The outcome was that my rate was lowered from a "Very Good" down to a "Good". The second problem was that my total rate concerning all years of study, calculated down from the 2nd year up to the 4th, was scored incorrectly.

I made great efforts to correct the two mistakes. However, I could not do anything to change the total rate. I paid many visits to the college administration to present my demands and complaints. The fall-out was that nothing was changed for the better. After a long miserable struggle, hard and mentally taxing effort, and financially and physically ruinous effort, I was ordered to go away and simply accept their decision. The reason being they gave was that the results were already sent to the Ministry of Education for attestation.

To confound the readers, let me mention that I met with one student who graduated this year from the Mathematics Department, but his name was not on the list of graduates. Lwmet me also mention that he was an outstanding student. I also met with another student from the Arabic Department whose results were also wrongly calculated. Can any one agree with these errors?! Question: Who is to bear the con-

sequences for such blunders and mindless neglect?!

I am not talking about something in the clouds. I am talking about the basics for any real growth.

However, we find that the people in charge have a lofty attitude, and they do not care about the fate of the ordinary Yemenis.

One obvious fall-out of such negligence is to mortgage the future of this country. The people who are responsible for our affairs are just not trustworthy.

We in Yemen are ignoring the rapid changes that are taking place in many countries around the world. Such a callous and ignorant attitude is the bane of our society. The worn-out adage, "corruption of the best becomes the worst", and the glorious verse in the Holy Quran, "Lo! Allah changeth not the condition of a folk until they (first) change that which is in their hearts".

We must all make a concerted effort to create a much better society, and simply patiently wait for its rebirth. We have to work and earn the modernization of Yemen.

If we aspire for an improvement of our society, we certainly have to start with our mind.

By:
Moh'd Noaman Ali Al-Hakimi
Taiz, Al-Hujariya.



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On the Media in Ethiopia

Following is an exclusive interview with Mr. Fantahun Asres, Ethiopia's Operation, Coordination and Press Licensing Team Leader.

Q: What are the important events witnessed in the Ethiopian press following the promulgation of the new press law?

A: Press freedom was non-existent prior to the transitional government. Press freedom was recognized for the first time in the country in the press law which was promulgated in October 1993. To date, a total of 324 press licenses were issued, which includes 186 newspapers, 104 magazines, 32 electronics printing houses, and 2 news agencies. 290 licenses for newspapers and magazines were issued, of these, 260 have seen print and circulation over the past three years.

Plus, the public has availed much from the press law, which fully guarantees the freedom of the press. The press law abolished censorship and ensured all Ethiopian citizens' rights to engage in information gathering and dissemination activities. It has helped newspapers and magazines flourish, to carry diverse views, and remove suspicion that there is something hidden from the watchful eyes and ears of the public.

Q: Some people say, "The press law is restrictive", and others assert that the press law is not fully exploited. What is your opinion regarding these views?

A: Under the press law, the press is presumed to be part of the freedom of expression, defined by the United Nations charter as an inviolable human right. Unless the press deliberately encroaches upon the rights of others, it is guaranteed to publish news based on truth and fact. It can also criticize, comment and suggest alternative ideas on the daily affairs of public life. Although the press enjoys many rights, there are also limitations. The press cannot print pornographic writings which the Ethiopian people hold as abnoxious and taboo and are contrary to our culture and beliefs. Such acts are considered a crime punishable by the country's law. Getting permission to engage in press activities is a right of all Ethiopian citizens, but not something given or taken away when necessary. Thus, there is no condition set to get press license.

Q: How many registered private newspapers

and magazines are presently operating?

A: There are 60 presses actively working at present. These are 50 newspapers, nine magazines and one news agency. Most of the newspapers are weeklies. Some are published biweekly and monthly. Two Amharic and one English newspapers are printed two to three times a week. There is no private daily however. The magazines are published every month or so.

Q: How do you view the Ethiopian press in the context of the legal code?

A: The new federal constitution has guaranteed the freedom of expression; thus, backing the press law.

Q: What are the basic shortcomings of the Ethiopian press? (both private and government media?)

A: Private press enumerates factors which it believes can discourage the press. In my view, what worries the private press the most is the market. The escalating cost of printing is another major problem facing the private press. It is, however, unreasonable to say newspapers will go out of print because of the rising price of paper. A businessman cannot at once quit his trade as a result of a rise in price of raw materials. Rather, he readjusts the price to the market. An increase in the price of press products does not affect publishers but readers. A press which provides quality information will always have readership. Even if it is expensive, readers will buy it. Therefore, the problem I think, is the press's inability to supply readers with quality information. Most of the press are not well organized.

Journalists working for them lack professional competence. Besides, they are understaffed. They don't bother to stick to professional ethics. Their work is characterized with editorialization or bias and give little information.

Nevertheless, the government media also has a lot of room for improvement. Their programs must be shaped in such a way that they can attract maximum audience. Radio and T.V. will not have an audience unless they make their programs interesting. Government proclamations, policies and directives can be communicated to the public only when the media have a large audience and their programs are properly handled to attract people. Failing in these, one can judge the extent messages

are carried over to the public by the media. The success of any media is measured by its ability to reach out to a large audience.

A five minute program received by a wide audience is better than a 30 minute program received by smaller audience.

Q: Do you think the public has grasped the essence of press freedom?

A: In some democratic countries of the West, the press has a repertoire of experience counted in centuries. But in Ethiopia, the press has only three years of experience. The fact that the press is young in this country indicates a lack of experience in both the readers and the journalists. In the aftermath of the promulgation of the press law, the public has been devouring all press products indiscriminately. Now the public has begun valuing the press for its credibility and information. In this regard, declining circulation and relaunching of papers bearing different names from the previous ones is a clear indication of the public's assessment of the newspapers.

Q: Are there any journalists imprisoned for criticizing the state?

A: There are no journalists in prison without a court order. Sometimes there are transgressions, and journalists are summoned before courts of law. We are here talking of limited cases.

Q: Can you pinpoint some solutions to overcoming the basic shortcomings of the Ethiopian press?

A: 1- All journalists must be given an opportunity at the Journalism Training Institute now under construction by the government, and which will start operation later in the year.

2- Create conditions for local journalists to share their experience with counterparts from abroad by way of seminars, symposiums, exhibitions, etc.

3- Give due attention to the quality of the press. Otherwise, private radio and TV stations should be well scheduled to avoid what electronics printing has done to book publishing.

**By: Afrah Mohammed ,
Yemen Times,
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia.**

The Arab-Israeli Peace Process: One More Step Forward

The PLO Chairman Mr. Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed on Thursday, September 28th, 1995, a new Agreement extending the Palestinian self-rule area. The ceremony was carried out at the White House, under the auspices of the Clinton Administration. Also attending were the Monarch of Jordan, King Hussain, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the Spanish Prime Minister, and the Foreign Minister of Russia, Japan, Norway, and many other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, US President Bill Clinton stressed that his country will continue to work for a complete peace in the Middle East. He invited both Syria and Lebanon to join the peace process, without whom, the peace will be incomplete. He also ailed the courage of the Palestinian and Israeli leaders for moving ahead with the peace in spite of hardships and major problems.

According to the new agreement, Israel will release 1000 Palestinian prisoners, and will hand over much of the West Bank to the Palestinian self-rule system.

At another level, Israeli extremists and Palestinian fundamentalists joined hands in opposing the new agreement. They separately staged demonstrations and rallies against the peace process.

Meanwhile, Syria, through its official newspapers responded negatively to the appeal of the American President. It announced that it was under no pressure to rush into the peace deals. Al-Ba'ath newspaper wrote last week that Syria and Lebanon were more concerned with the retrieval of all their territories and their security rather than meeting a certain deadline.

In a later press conference, the US Administration has re-affirmed its commitment to helping all partners in the peace process proceed forward. Syria was mentioned by name as one of the countries which will be prodded to inch forward, by arranging serious negotiations with Israel. A meeting is scheduled between the Syrian and Israeli negotiators to meet before the end of this year.

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Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

Can Adenis Have Their Dignity?

As former expatriate residents of Aden, we recently revisited the city for the first time since the war, and were shocked and saddened to see the condition to which it has been reduced.

The destruction wrought on Aden is not so much physical damage as the crushing of the human spirit, combined with the determined attempt to discourage recovery and economic growth.

The Adeni people are being subjected to a reign of terror and violence; human rights are being violated (for example the refusal to issue identity cards, and so the right to travel, to those of mixed ancestry); looting and theft is still excused as the 'spoils of war'; apprehension of violence hangs over even innocent weddings and picnics. A frequent comment is, "There is no justice in Aden".

Surely it behooves the government to prove that unity is mutually beneficial, and so prevent future unrest. Presently, it is little more than an occupying force which gives free reign to extremists to exact their own revenge and impose their own 'law'.

The people of Aden have long been known for their tolerance. It is too much to ask that they be allowed their human dignity.

By: Helen and David Stanton, Sanaa.

Optimism on the Economic Situation

The Yemeni people are optimistic about the economic prospects of Yemen because of the present rise in the value of the Riyal vis-a-vis the US dollar. The above-mentioned fact is the result of measures taken by the government, the most of which are as follows:

- 1) Setting up a banking committee to guide the activities of the commercial banks.
- 2) Setting up an exchange rate committee of the bankers, which is guided by the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY).
- 3) Increasing the interest on advances/loans to 30%; the rates were between 7% and 9%. These measures contributed to controlling inflation and bringing down the cost of living in spite of the non-existence of true economic factors.

It is quite true that some opposition newspapers have tried to belittle the positive effects of the aforementioned measures on the inflation rate and in curbing the worsening economic situation. For example, Al-Wahdawi newspaper reported in its issue No. 118, dated 12th September 95 that, according to the World Bank, the basic exchange rate of the Yemeni Riyal will go up to YR. 118/- against the US Dollar and that, if the economic situation continues to deteriorate, the exchange rate will probably go up the YR. 4,008/= against the US Dollar.

What does this mean?! Of course, the readers of such opposition newspapers are so

intelligent that they are not likely to believe such things will occur. In fact, most of them are very optimistic about the future of the Yemeni economy despite the alarming exaggerations of the opposition newspapers such as the one mentioned above.

Moreover, I should like to state that I have recently heard many citizens in the street pray to our God, the Almighty, to prolong the lives of our President and the Minister of Trade & Supply, for their courageous decision regarding the exchange of commodities between our country and the Gulf states. This decision combined with the aforementioned measures have sent a signal to the monopolists who were responsible for the rise in price of products.

Radhwan A. Ali,
Taiz.

Statement from the Haj Movement on the Trial of the Secessionist

Today, our country is in a state of chaos, disarray, corruption and internal conflicts due to the rulers who mind nothing except their own family and their personal interests. This regime has plundered the country, people and wealth. The people of the south suffered most. Even the history of the southern and eastern regions was not exempted from this robbery, since all their museums and heritage were destroyed with the intention of obliterating their identity.

The Sana'a regime waged an unjustifiable war against the Southern and Eastern regions. It has intentionally spread military-tribal influence in the region,

until today when the majority of the citizens feel like strangers in their own homes.

The media, which is an apparatus of the regime, prepares a new scenario called the "Trial of the Secessionists" with the intention of liquidating the southern leaders. But we all recognize that these are hopeless attempts to bury the document of pledge and accord. It is also an escape from national reconciliation. Without this national reconciliation, the country can never be stable.

We would like to ask the following questions:

Who is supposed to be brought justice or trial? Is it the one who started the war for the sake of domination, oppression and robbery? Or those brave leaders that defended themselves and the destiny of their country?

In this confused and unstable situation, we repeat our demand to all peace-loving people inside and outside Yemen, to put pressure on the Sana'a regime to fulfill the following:

1- Implement the six points the Sanaa regime committed to the UN's General Secretary in its letter dated 7-7-1994, that ended the war.

2- Implement the two UN resolutions No. 924 and No. 931 dated 1st and 29th June 1994, respectively. The latter stresses that the conflict between the two sides can be solved only through negotiations.

The Haj Movement assures again that the case in the UN Security Council is not closed. Any effort to escape or hesitate in fulfilling the above commitments will lead to more instability and suffering.

Signed,
The Haj Movement

Telling It The Way It Is

I could not pass up the opportunity to correct an allegation printed in a letter to Editor in the Yemen Times of September 18th, 1995, Issue No. 38, under the heading "Ethiopian Refugees Ask For Help"

The five persons listed as Ethiopian refugees, have since a long time safely rejoined their fellow comrades after a procedural span of investigation to establish their innocence by the legitimate authority.

We have the highest admiration and respect for the conduct of the

Yemeni Government and people with respect to the protection and sustenance rendered to the Ethiopian Naval Refugees, which has no parallel in the region. Were it not for the humane and compassionate intercession by the Yemeni Government, the UNHCR would have long abandoned its mandate and obligation to care for the Ethiopian refugees -- in particular as explained by the article.

This is just a note to set the record straight on the matter. Thanks to Yemen Times for its open and balanced coverage.

Refugee:
M. Mokonnen.

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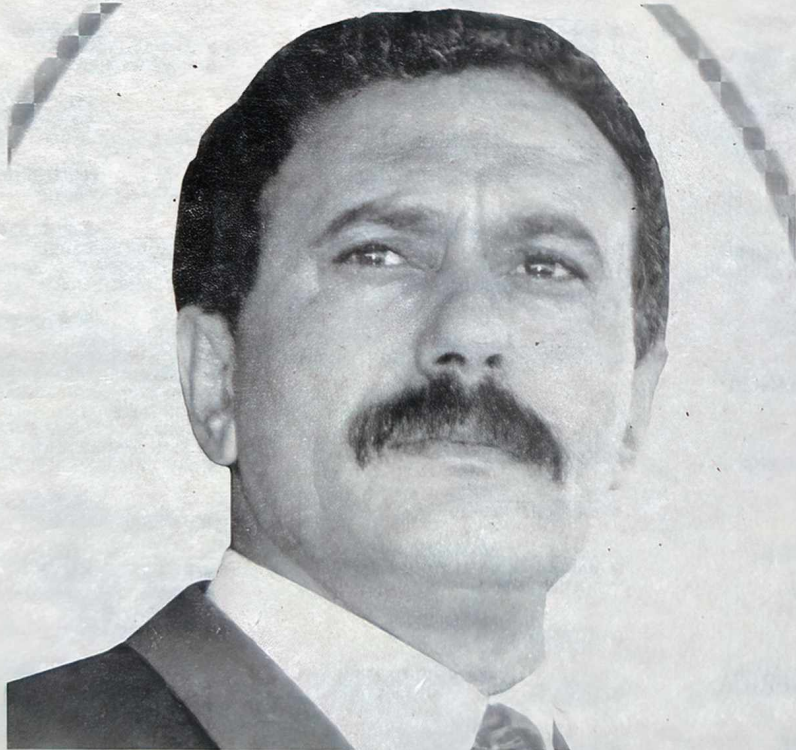
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ACT 1

Micaela has come to Seville to her fiancee Don Jose who is a corporal in the regiment. Lillas Pastia directs her to where he thinks she could find him. Don Jose arrives with the relief guard at noon when the girls from the cigarette factory come to the tavern and amongst them is Carmen, the beautiful but heartless gypsy girl. She notices Don Jose and throws him a rose to attract his attention before she turns and leaves. Just then Micaela returns and she explains that she has brought him a letter from his mother. Micaela withdraws whilst he reads it, but a disturbance breaks his mood. Carmen has wounded one of her companions in a quarrel and Don Jose is told to take her to jail. Carmen offers to meet him later if he will help her to escape and her plea is successful. She escapes and Don Jose is punished by imprisonment.

ACT 2

It is an evening some months later. Carmen is waiting at the Inn with Lillas Pastia planning their next smuggling adventure when Escamillo a famous Toreador arrives. He is due to fight in the bullring and when he sees Carmen he immediately falls in love with her. Escamillo leaves and Carmen tells Lillas Pastia that she cannot join him on his next smuggling trip because she is waiting for Don Jose who has just been released from prison. Don Jose arrives and Carmen entertains and beguiles him. Suddenly he hears the distant bugle calling him back to the army camp and if he does not return he will be classed as "deserter". Carmen is furious and they quarrel. Eventually Don Jose decides to leave the army and join the smugglers with her.

ACT 3

In a wild mountain pass, the smugglers hide their contraband and stolen goods. Don Jose is there with Carmen but he is unhappy and they continually quarrel. Carmen taunts him and tells him to go back to his mother although she knows that her future will be death at his hands because she sees this prediction for her in the cards. Unseen, Micaela arrives looking for Don Jose, but as she approaches them he fires a shot and she faints in terror. Unknown to her, the shot was aimed at Escamillo who enters and introduces himself to Don Jose and says that he has come to meet his love Carmen. When he hears this, Don Jose is furious and the two men fight a deadly duel with knives. Escamillo is saved by the intervention of Carmen who now is in love with him. Escamillo leaves. Carmen and Don Jose are continuing to quarrel when he sees Micaela who has come to tell him that his mother is dying and wishes to see him once more. Unable to resist the appeal, he leaves with Micaela and warns Carmen that they will meet again elsewhere.

ACT 4

Escamillo enters with Carmen. They are on their way to the bullring where he will fight today. He enters the bullring and Lillas Pastia draws Carmen to one side and warns her to be careful because Don Jose is hiding in the crowd. He leaves to watch the fight and Carmen is left alone. Don Jose appears and pleads with Carmen to return to him. Carmen runs away and tries to enter the bullring, but Don Jose prevents it. He asks her if she loves Escamillo now and she says, "Yes, forever". When he hears this, Don Jose realizes that he has ruined his life for a woman who no longer loves him and threatens to kill her if she will not return to him. Again Carmen refuses and Don Jose draws his knife and kills her.

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YEMEN Nominates Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati for the 1996 International Gandhi Leprosy Award

The Republic of Yemen has formally nominated Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati, Director of the National Leprosy Control Program, for the 1996 International Gandhi Leprosy Award for achievers. The nomination signed by the Governor of Taiz Province and the Director-General of the Taiz Health Office, was addressed to Dr. S. D. Gokhale, Chairman of the International Leprosy Union and the Convener of the Award Committee.

Dr. Al-Qubati has dedicated himself to the service of lepers and to work to eradicate this disease from Yemen. He is also instrumental in rehabilitation of lepers and re-introducing them back to society.

A graduate of the Medical College in skin diseases, Yassin has spearheaded the establishment of hospitals for lepers. The one in Taiz, by far the largest in the country, is worthy of mention. Dr. Al-Qubati has also embarked on site visits roaming different parts of the country - from Hajjah in the north to Hadhramaut in the east. For that, he put together - thanks to international donor support - mobile units that help lepers in their villages.

But the main contribution of Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati is probably his efforts to shed light on the plight of lepers and to raise public awareness on their predicament. He sponsored many television, and radio programs, published in newspapers, circulated flyers, gave lectures, etc. Indeed he mightily deserves the award, and Yemen Times hopes he gets it.

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