



# YEMEN TIMES

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Tareq Al-Shami Speaks  
about Opposition Politics.  
Page 3.

Desertification:  
Yemen's Growing Menace.  
Page 7.

NASS Introduces New  
Equipment to Yemen.  
Page 8.

Mareb Insurance Company  
Mounts Marketing Campaign  
Page 15.

## STRAIGHT TALK

The politicians in Sanaa are playing a very primitive game. They target the active public figures and political activists in order with the objective of pushing them out of public life. They especially hate successful people who are able to gain the confidence and trust of the public. So they try to stop them, even if that means ruining successful projects and endeavors.

The rulers thus use state influence, resources and machinery to discredit the few success stories of this country. There are a number of vivid examples of this policy in action, and the numerous forms it takes. Let me list some:

### 1. Pushing Targets to Violence:

Targeted individuals are kicked around by the state in a proxy war in which persons hired by the state, and in some cases PSO agents, play the role of the adversary. The target is cornered and trapped in situations in which he is forced to resort to fight back, often leading to violence in self defence. As soon as that happens, the state formally intervenes against the target.

Mr. Sultan Al-Sameyi, who won the majority of the votes in his constituency even when the authorities disqualified his candidature, is a case in point. He was hunted down and trap after another was placed in his way, until one day he fell. Since then, he became a fugitive because the state is formally hunting for him.

### 2. Pushing Targets to Withdrawal:

In some cases, the targeted individuals are so frustrated that they decide to withdraw from the game. They are cornered in situations which may them appear as stupid or lacking in stamina and courage. They decide to withdraw from a showdown in which the state machinery is the adversary.

Mr. Abdul-Habib Salem Moqbel is an example of this scenario. He is a well-respected person whose only vice is his

criticism of the mistakes of the regime. He finally gave up.

### 3. Pushing Targets to Leave:

In other cases, the scenario calls for scaring the individuals to flee the country. The nuisance is so enormous, many a decent and hard working citizen is forced to leave the country. There are at least a dozen Sanaa University professors, several medical doctors, many more engineers and other highly qualified individuals who have been victims of this strategy. The rulers are making sure any person with a good working mind that does not submit to them does not stay here.

### 4. Pushing Targets to Prison:

Another dimension to this strategy is to fabricate allegations and charge the targeted individuals with various crimes. Many a decent citizen languishes in prison today simply because he is seen by the rulers as an opponent.

### Current Target: Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf:

The state machinery and the many persons working for it have been working overtime to create a trap for the chief editor of the Yemen Times. The reason is that the rulers are not happy with the way the paper has been reporting news and analysis.

Over the last three years, several traps have been set up, but they were bypassed primarily because of the defiant refusal of Dr. Al-Saqqaf to go the violent road. The harassment has included all projects in which he is involved.

Today, even the Hadharem Welfare Association is being entangled in the web as part of the pressure brought to bear. But the trap is not yet complete, and Mr. Al-Saqqaf continues to issue the Yemen Times. The day the Yemen Times does not come out, the readers will then know Mr. Al-Saqqaf has fallen in the trap.

Yes, It Looks Like We Worked It Out:

## Improvements at Sanaa Prison

Over the last month, there has been considerable give and take between the Yemen Times and the Ministry of Interior's Prison Authority regarding the way the paper reports prison conditions, especially in the female inmates' ward. There was much misunderstanding and confusion. Neither side trusted the other. I am happy to state that this week has witnessed a dramatic change of events. The Prison Authority invited a Yemen Times team - provided it was headed by the Chief Editor - to have full access to the

gigantic complex, on Marib Road. We spent the whole morning on Tuesday, August 29th. That was the 9th Yemen Times visit to the Sanaa Prison over the last four months.

Yes, folks, there is change, and to the better. There is a new team running the place, with a new spirit and a new drive. They deserve the support of all of us in their efforts to improve the lot of the prisoners and the system.

Read full details on page 5

## BEIJING WOMEN'S 4TH CONFERENCE STARTS TODAY

Today is a day that will be remembered in history. Today, the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) will be officially opened. Over 20,000 delegates have flocked into Beijing for the occasion.

In May 1990, the UN Economic and Council passed a resolution that a world conference on women will be held in 1995. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen wrote to the UN secretary-general on January 28, 1991, offering to host the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. In his letter, Qian said that since Asia is the continent with the greatest number of women and China has the world's largest population of women, it would be appropriate for China to host the meeting. In March 1992, the 36th session of the Commission on the Status of Women accepted the invitation of the Chinese government and decided to schedule the conference from September 4th to 15th, 1995, in Beijing. All UN member states, representatives of UN special bodies and organizations will attend as observers.

A large female delegation from the Republic of Yemen has left to participate in the meeting. Yemen has prepared a short documentary film entitled "Women in Development in Yemen" to be presented at the conference. The film should be a documentary outlining the past and current situation of urban and rural women in Yemen.

I have studied women's condition in Yemen

since my arrival in Aden five months ago. There are a lot of success stories in the women's sector. These are not the result of group or team work. Often, it is the fruit of the dedication of an individual such as Basmah Al-Qubati, and others.

This young woman has been able to mobilize international contributions and channel them to help some of the least advantaged members of the Yemeni society. Many scholars believe that there are opportunities on which we should capitalize. We should also work on changing people's attitude towards women by stressing the importance of their role in society. Education and training of females should be seen as a right, as well as an investment.

Providing a healthy work environment for career women is an important first step towards involving them more and more in public life. This clearly means that women have a right to work, in whatever field they choose and depending on market conditions. People should realize that education is a basic right for all, including women. Education is the best investment that a father can give to his daughter. Unfortunately in the Yemeni society, when a girl is in her early teens, the family already talks about prospective grooms. They are in a hurry to marry her off.

Continues on page 10

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## The President's Field Visits

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been paying visits to a number of vital ministries and organizations. His systematic on-site visits to the Ministry of Information, Transport, Industry and Investment, Education in addition to the Central bank of Yemen, have paid off. He has been able to shake up these places and instill a new mood and a sense of urgency.

In all of these organizations, the officials felt that they were being watched and that they should live up to their responsibilities. The President effectively held the carrot and stick. His message was clear: "Do your job well and you shall be rewarded. Deviate and you shall be punished."

In the final analysis, however, the country needs a proper control system - starting from our own sense of duty. The individuals should feel that what they do matters, and that they should do it. In addition, the system must put in place a proper reward and punishment instrument. The President cannot be expected to run around and maintain this pressure all the time.

Unfortunately, the government is not doing this job effectively. The ministers have little control over their staff, and politicization has played an eroding role. People used to think that the rivalry between the PGC and YSP was responsible. But today, what allows this to persist. It is not the rivalry between the PGC and Islah. The rotten apples everywhere have their own momentum and protection mechanism.

I urge all decent citizens to join hands with the president in his effort in trying to straighten out the bureaucracy. The principle of reward and punishment must prevail, irrespective of the political/tribal affiliation of individuals. We can root out the rotten apples. It can be done, and it must be done.

As a first step, can the ministers emulate the president and pay site visits to the organizations that fall under their authority. Can the governors visit the regions, it is easy to sit tight in a nice office, but it is not as fulfilling as getting the job done.

Mr. President you have given a good example these last few days.

*The Publisher*  


### Oil Companies Help Yemen's Retarded Children

Foreigners working in oil companies have been collecting donations for the Mother Theresa Home in Sanaa. Terry Follen of BHP Petroleum (Yemen) Inc. and Carl Flahaven of Yemen Hunt Oil Company coordinated the effort. BHP was able to screen the Rugby World Cup on its satellite system and arranged sponsors for the four events. The sponsors were Nabors, Deutag, Halliburton, Sperry Sun, Hasco and Arabian Group.

At the end of the effort, some fifty individuals chipped in generating a total collection of US\$ 3500 - enough to construct a new water system for the home. The Mother Theresa Home in Sanaa looks after handicapped and retarded children. It is managed by sisters who freely volunteer their time in the service of others.

The best part in all of this is that the oil people enjoyed their time while helping the children. Thanks guys!

### Formation of High Council for Civil Administration

Everybody has been saying it. At last the government is getting it. The government has decided to look into its bureaucracy and civil service. Towards that end, it created last week a High Council that will by-pass the bureaucratic maze and instill a new mood. Keep your fingers crossed that they may not have just added a new dimension to the old maze.

### Norwegian Writers Delegation Arrives in Yemen

A four-person team representing the Norwegian Writers' Guild is expected to arrive in Yemen this month. The team is going to have a first-hand look at the cases of important writers and poets in Yemen who have been harassed by the state.

At the top of the list is, of course, Mr. Mansoor Rajih, who has been languishing in the Taiz Central Prison for a dozen years.

### European Parliamentary Delegation Expected Soon

A group of parliamentarians representing the European Parliament are expected to visit Yemen shortly. The group is going to assess Yemen's political evolution.

A European diplomat in Sanaa said that the report of the parliamentarians is critical for the continuation of EEC aid to Yemen.

### Trouble in Cabinet

Trouble has been brewing in the cabinet as differences among ministers took a bad turn last week. One case has been between the Minister of Education and the Vice Prime Minister - both in the Islah Party. The Prime Minister is letting them let it out.

### Saudi Goods Flood Yemeni Markets

Since the rapprochement between the two countries, Saudi manufactured goods have been flooding the Yemeni market. These products have quickly undermined the local goods. One industrialist complained that at least they should subject the Saudi products to the same customs duty to which their raw materials and other inputs are subjected.

### Formation of Yemeni-Kuwaiti Association

A group of Yemeni intellectuals, journalists, parliamentarians, uni-

versity professors and public figures have decided to form a Yemeni-Kuwaiti Brotherhood Association. This will be announced later this month, a source told the Yemen Times. The association is to serve as a forum for the two countries to normalize bilateral relations.

### Yemen Times Predicted It

In our issues 29/95 (17/7/95), 32/95 (7/8/95) and 34/95 (21/8/95), Yemen Times had forecasted that the US dollar rate will inevitably rise. We, in fact, said that before the end of August, it will rise again. Well, folks, the US dollar rate had fallen steadily until it hit below YR 60 per US dollar on Saturday 26th. Then it stabilized and began to rise. On Tuesday, 29th, a US dollar was YR 66, on Wednesday, 30th, it was YR 75, and on Thursday 31st, it was YR 89. Then it started going down again. It is now hovering around YR 75 per US dollar.

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## Successful Taiz Dental Symposim

The Taiz Dentists Community held a one-day seminar on August 23rd. Speakers presented papers on various aspects of dental care. Dr. Ghalib talked about the importance of fluorin in water. Dr. Jameel Hilmy on the fluorin intake in the Taiz water supply. Dr. Abdul-Wahid Bani Ghazi on dental cavities, and Dr. Adel Al-Adeemi on cancer of the mouth. The medical community in Taiz holds periodic seminars to exchange information among the professionals and to educate the general public. The Dental seminar was sponsored by ZYMA.



## YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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## Tareq Al-Shami:

# "Yemen's democratization process is faltering."

Mr. Tareq Ahmed Al-Shami is one of the aspiring political activists of Yemen. He is today the Assistant Secretary-General of the Ittihad al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah (IQS) and the party's focal point since the Secretary-General is in voluntary exile.

The IQS has been on the receiving end in its relations with the state over the last few weeks. Its offices have been closed down, its newspaper shut down, and its bank accounts frozen. Moreover, a splinter group had mounted a violent attack during the convention of the party. The attack was repelled, but the state has used that event to undermine the party. Reason: the IQS has been spearheading the opposition bloc and bank-rolling some of their activities.

Ismail Al-Ghabri, Sanaa Bureau Chief of Yemen Times, interviewed Mr. Al-Shami and filed the following report. Excerpts:

**Q: Your party has been banned. On what grounds?**

**A:** Yes, the Minister of Legal Affairs has ordered the closing down of our offices and newspaper - Al-Shoura, and has seized our bank accounts. He based his decision on the pretext that the party was divided and splintered and that such schism has led to violence and shooting. We, in fact, believe that it was the state that orchestrated such a schism by hiring a few individuals to mount the attack.

**Q: Does the minister possess the power to close down a party?**

**A:** What the minister did was contrary to the law. Article (34) of the Political Parties Law states that the offices of political parties or their newspapers, etc., may not be closed down except by a court sentence.

**Q: Have you tried to refer the matter to the courts?**

**A:** Yes, we have. First of all let me say that our many appeals to the office of the attorney-general went in vain. It is clear that the attorney-general is a simple employee who receives orders from even the lowliest of state officials and officers. Imagine, the attorney-general did not have even the courage to simply meet with us. He was dead scared of us and avoided us at all cost.

Second, we went to the Chairman of the Sanaa Court of Appeals to correct the situation. He instructed the Ministry of Information to act according to the law regarding the paper. Up to this minute, we have not seen the answer of the Ministry to the orders of the judge.

**Q: You met with the president and talked about these issues. What did he say?**

**A:** I was optimistic about the possibility of resolving the problem by speaking to the president, especially in light of his repeated commitment to political pluralism and his belief in the role of the opposition. The last such declaration came in his interview with MBC, a few days ago.

But, I was surprised that the president said that the newspaper will not be released because the party to which it belonged did not register itself with the Committee for Political Parties. I indicated that no party as yet, including the president's own party, has registered. When registration starts, we shall do so along with all other parties.

Then he reversed the excuse by indicating that the Secretary-General, Mr. Ali Bin Ibrahim Al-Wazeer, of the IQS was abroad. Hence, the party cannot function unless its top person were in the country. I told him that we will abide by the law, and if the law requires the Secretary-General to be in the country, which it doesn't, then he will come. The

law should be the arbiter on this and any other point of difference. In other words, the newspaper Al-Shoura is still banned, and this is contrary to all the declarations, laws and constitution.

**Q: If it is clear that the state will not allow a resumption of publication of Al-Shoura, what are your plans?**

**A:** We hope that the state will see light and let us print our paper in Yemen. If this is not possible, we are going to print it abroad. We are already considering various alternatives.

**Q: Which cities do you have in mind?**

**A:** We are considering many countries including Egypt, the USA and other countries. I hope this does not happen.

**Q: Mr. Ali Al-Wazeer is in voluntary exile. Why?**

**A:** Actually it is a long story. Mr. Ali Al-Wazeer is a grandson of the martyr Abdullah Al-Wazeer who led the 1948 Revolution against the Imam Yahia. The whole family is involved in political reform and development. In the 1960s, Mr. Ali Al-Wazeer was harassed by the military rulers of Yemen, and forced him to flee to other lands. Since then he has also been the target of several attempts on his life, the last one being in 1988. What I am saying is that he does not feel safe in Yemen.

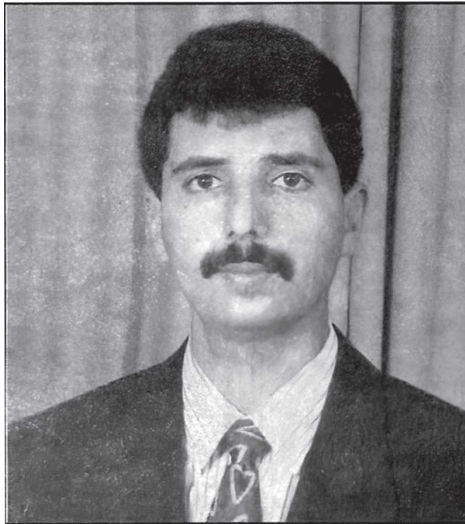
The harassment to which we and many leaders of other opposition parties are exposed is a sufficient indicator of this dimension.

**Q: What kind of pressure have you brought to bear on the regime on this matter?**

**A:** Of course, we have reported the matter to many forums worldwide. Many organizations such as Article (19), Amnesty International, Committee to Protect Journalists, and others have written to the authorities on this matter. The matter was also widely floated within American circles, such as the US Congress, State Department, and of course, the Arab-American communities and their organizations. They too have approached our authorities. Yemen's image is steadily being eroded as people discover the true nature of the regime in Sanaa. It is unfortunate that this is happening, as the country could have risen to an exceptional stature.

**Q: Why is your party targeted by the regime?**

**A:** First, let me say that the regime does not target just our party. Many other opposition parties have suffered from the excesses of the regime and its violations of the law. The Nasserites have suffered, the Ba'athists have suffered. And even independent individuals have suffered. So, it is not just our party.



Second, our party has recently put its act together and we have been able to work together with other parties in creating a forum for the opposition. This is the Supreme Coordination Council which was announced a few weeks ago.

Third, Al-Shoura became a very popular newspaper among the readers to the extent that it eclipsed the government papers. There are those and other reasons for trying to downsize our party. Finally, our party has stood in the face of the regression of our political evolution. It became rather clear that the rulers were slowly nibbling away on the democratization achievements. We are pushing forward the effort to restore and shore up our experiment.

**Q: What do you think of the transformation of our political process?**

**A:** At the outset, I will say that the political transformation of Yemen - meaning the democratization process - is faltering. You can readily see manifestations of this deterioration.

Let me enumerate some of them: The number of independent and/or opposition party newspapers has fallen dramatically. The authorities are making life for such newspapers almost impossible.

A number of opposition parties have been splintered. We have talked about a splintering of our party driven by the rulers. The Nasserite Party has been splintered. The Ba'ath Party has been splintered. The YSP has been splintered.

**Q: You sound pessimistic. How do you view the developments in the near future?**

**A:** Yemen had initiated efforts to go along the road of democracy. The sheer - power balance between the former partners in power - the PGC and YSP - guaranteed a minimum of freedom. Thus we had embarked on the democratic course, but could not keep on this course.

It is not a matter of being pessimistic or being optimistic. Rather it is a matter of being realistic. I can see the development that have taken place over the recent past. Once the power balance is lost, our experiment in democracy was not only halted, but also reversed. I say this in light of the developments.

**Q: The opposition bloc has insisted that the country needs a broad-based salvation government as part of a national reconciliation effort. Don't you think this contradicts a basic principle of democracy is for the party with a majority to rule, and the others remain in the opposition?**

**A:** There are two aspects to your question. We do call for a national reconciliation effort, but that does not necessarily include the formation of a broad-based government. The reconciliation process calls for a state based on law and order, equality in front of the law for all, institution-building, open markets, freedom of the press and a pluralist political system, etc.

In other words, reconciliation demands that we set up a modern state in which the abilities of each and every one of us can find a chance to come out. This is what we ask for, and I believe the Document of Pledge and Accord which was signed by all side in Amman, Jordan, provides a good vehicle to achieve it.

With respect to participation of all parties in a new government, this is not a demand, and it is not even a prerequisite. It is up to the party with the majority in parliament to decide what kind of government should be formed and who should be included. Some opposition parties have called for a broad-based national salvation government. Their point was that at this juncture of our evolution, the country needs to take vital decisions which need a consensus among all parties, and the support of all power bases.

**Q: What do you see as a major bottleneck to our proper political evolution?**

**A:** The people of Yemen no longer trust the people in charge and this undermines the credibility and legitimacy of the system. In fact, the people have little confidence even in each other. As a result, a mood of carelessness and neglect prevails. No many care about what happens to the country.

In other words, people see their life in Yemen as temporary. It is as if they are here on transit. That is why they are not involved in the affairs of their village or neighborhood or street. This attitude is the direct result of the frustration caused by all the mismanagement and corruption.

**Q: We are a year and a half away from the next parliamentary elections due in April 1997. Are you prepared?**

**A:** The opposition parties within the High Coordination Council have agreed to jointly run in the next elections. In other words, they will not compete against each other.

Second, from the last elections, we see that the rulers have used the state machinery, resources and influence to achieve their goals. It is important that we start working from now to make sure the ruling politicians do not repeat that behavior.

**Q: Where do we go from here?**

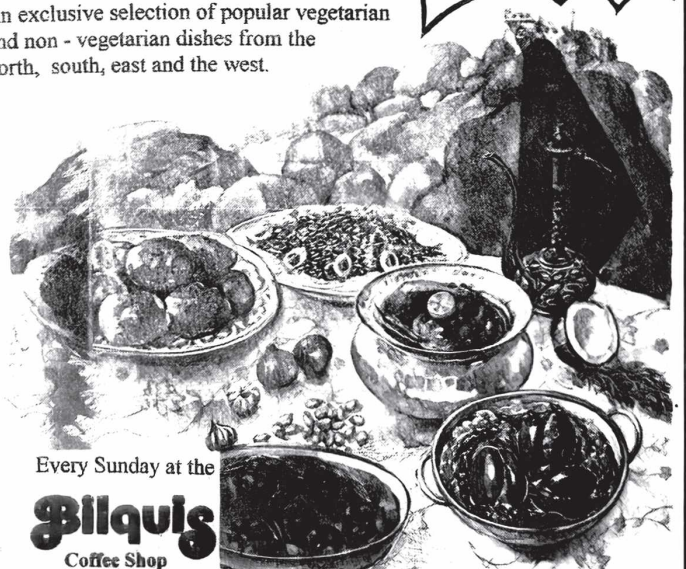
**A:** I think we have no choice but to continue pushing forward in our democratization and liberalization process. It is not going to be easy, but it is worthwhile.

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Continued from page 1:

# Improvements in the Sanaa Prison

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Ibtisam Al-Hamdi, and  
Sara Hassan.

In the company of Colonel Abdullah Al-Wasi, General Manager of Surveillance of the Prison System, Colonel Mohammed Al-Iryani, General Manager of Rehabilitation and Training, and many officials of the Sanaa Central Prison, a Yemen Times team was allowed direct and unlimited contact with the prisoners. We were also allowed to go through the registers and to tour the facilities. There is a dramatic transformation at the Sanaa Central Prison, which must be supported and encouraged.

### 1. The Work Facilities:

A number of training and rehabilitation workshops have been opened two weeks ago. "Most of these machines were purchased in 1986. But they remained in their boxes. We decided to open them and start using them," explained Colonel Al-Iryani. As a result, four types of activities have been initiated - The Garments Workshop, the Furniture Workshop, the Cement Blocks Workshop, and the Agribusiness.

In the Garments section various kinds of clothings are made. "We are now producing school uniforms. Later we hope to produce military/security uniforms and ordinary garments," Colonel Al-Iryani explained. There are separate male and female departments to this workshop.

In the Furniture Workshop high quality household and office furniture is produced. "We make the

goods according to the specifications provided by the buyer," explained the foreman.

In the Cement Blocks Workshop, young men produce various types and sizes of cement blocks used in construction. "We deliver the blocks to the buyer wants them in Sanaa."

In the Agribusiness, young men till the land and produce tomatoes, potatoes, and various other vegetables.

In all cases, the prisoners are first taught how to go about the work by trainers who are brought in by the prison authority. Thus the prisoners, acquire a skill.

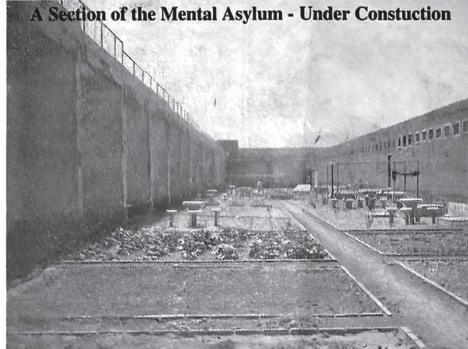
Second, the prisoners can spend most of the day outside the prison cell. "This is very important because I used to get bored inside the cell, which is overcrowded, anyway," said one prisoner.

Third, it is a money generating scheme for all sides. The prison authorities provide the raw materials, in return for which they keep 15% of the sale price over and above the cost of the material, the prisoners get two kinds of income. A direct weekly cash which they can use to improve their standard of living, and a weekly deposit to a bank under their name as savings. "Thus when they finally leave prison, they have some money with which to start their normal life again."

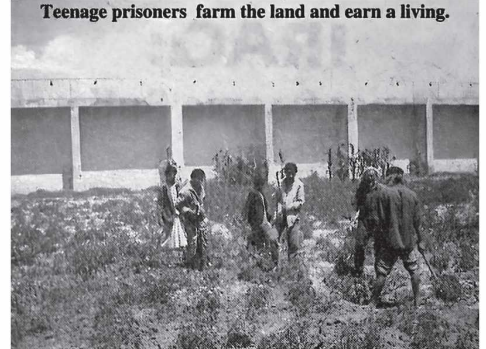
### 2. The Women's Ward:

The Women's Ward has seen three visible improvements:

a) The Dreaded Night Interrogations are no more practised. "Even before your report, this was discontinued," explained Mr. Munir Ghamis, In Charge of the Prison Security. After sunset,



A Section of the Mental Asylum - Under Constuction



Teenage prisoners farm the land and earn a living.

no one is allowed to go to the Women's Ward to disturb them.

b) Many women whose terms have expired or who were not serving a prison sentence according to a court decision have been released. Sixteen women have been screened and released last week. "We hope to release many more as we go through their files," Colonel Al-Wasi said.

### c) Expansion of Physical Facilities in Women's Section:

The officers are trying to improve the physical setting of the Women's Ward in one of two ways - either to add to rooms from the back side, or to move the Women's Ward to a different building which has more space. The female inmates are now congested and squeezed and we would like to change that said Colonel Al-Wasi.

### d) The Kindergarten:

The officers are now working a plan with the Minister of Interior to allocate a plot of land next to

the Women's Ward on which a small kindergarten can be built. The cost of this will be around YR 1.5 million.

Yemen Times urges philanthropists to consider chipping in to finance this project. The objective is to improve the conditions of the children and their mothers in prison.

### 3. The Mental Asylum:

There are about seventy prisoners who are mentally disturbed. There are no facilities to cater to them. Now, the prison authority, in coordination and cooperation with the Red Cross and Red Crescent, are preparing a section for these inmates. Already, a section has been put aside for this purpose, and work is underway to prepare a mental asylum section in the prison.

### YET 2 PROBLEMS PERSIST:

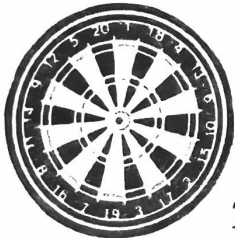
A: Going through the records of the Sanaa Prison, we found that almost a third of the prisoners -

about 2500 in all - are in jail without court sentences. In most cases, officials from the prosecution offices - there are nine in Sanaa City - send prisoners to jail pending interrogations and trials. The law says that individuals may be held up for a maximum of 15 days pending interrogation, and a maximum of 45 days pending a trial.

Some 900 prisoners are in jail in Sanaa today for more than six months without court decisions, and simply by orders from the prosecution offices. Sometimes, the order is from ordinary clerks in the prosecution offices. This is against the law. Yemen Times, in collaboration with the new prison prosecutor, Mr. Hadi Aidhah, is now compiling a list to be printed in order to shame some of the prosecution officers and clerks who freely imprison citizens. It is up to the Prosecutor General, Mohammed Al-Badri, and to the President of the Sanaa Prosecution Office, Mr. Salim Al-

Shaibah, to stop this illegal practise. Yemen Times has approached Mr. Al-Shaibah for an interview to talk about this and other matters. He agreed and we hope to wrap it next week. Mr. Al-Badri has avoided us. In many cases, these prisoners can be released on bail.

B: The second problem has to do with documentation. The prison authorities do not have complete files on the prisoners. For example, there are no copies of the court sentences. Thus, it is not possible to determine when or even whether a prisoner will come out. Thus, the prison authority has appointed seven individuals to run from court to court and from prosecution office to another with a list of prisoners' names to complete the files. Yemen Times accompanied one of these individuals, Mohammed Izzaddeen Mubarak, on his tour. It is almost like a witch-hunt. The frustration is compounded by the lack of organization in the courts.



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- Venue : Abu Nawas
- Start Time : 3.30 p.m sharp
- A knock out tournament

- Deadline for submitting entry forms will be the 14th Sept '95
- Games will be best of 3, final best of 5.
- 301 straight off, doubles to finish.
- Full set of rules to be posted on the day.

- Snacks Provided
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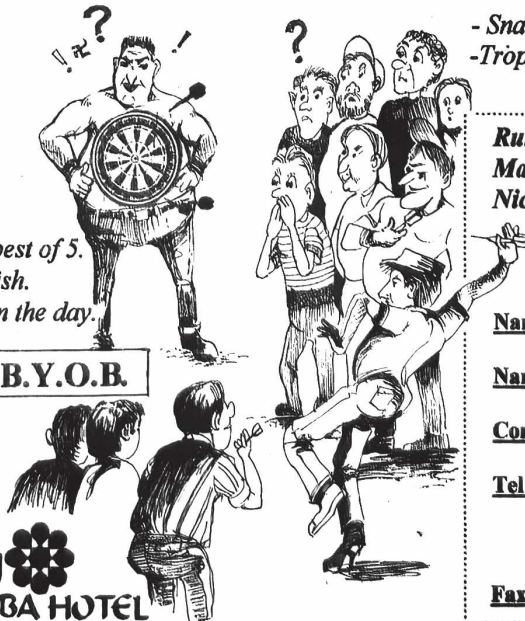
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**ENTRY FREE**

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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## IRAQ: A Great People Suffers!

The history of Iraq is a long and fascinating one, containing a lot of volatility, culture and transformation that spans 6 millennia of time, although evidence is continuously coming out that perhaps this span should be pushed back still much farther. Occupying the larger area of the Fertile Crescent, Iraq is the conversion point of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers which is fed from the highlands of Asia Minor. This strategic spot of the civilized world has surely left its mark on humanity, both as a source and a transmitter of a wealth of knowledge. Without it, man could never have reached the prosperity and power over the elements - with all the good and bad aspects that come with this power - in the modern times.

It was Babylon that laid down the first civilized foundations for man. Hammurabi's Code was issued there and signaled man's first effort to institutionalize society and to set guidelines in the relations between the rulers and the governed and among the members of society. We might call it the first social contract. In the area of culture, the epic of Gilgamesh initiated man's craving for literature and prose as inspirational enjoyment; another first for the Fertile Crescent from Sumer - the southern part of Babylonia, and long before the Iliad and the Odyssey of Homer.

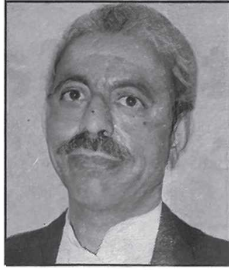
It was in Iraq where many of the

Biblical-Quranic events were situated or initiated. Starting from Abraham's story, Iraq was the breeding grounds for the Judaeo-Christian-Islamic spiritual cultural heritages that dominate most of the civilized world to date.

It was from Iraq that the Arab Muslim Armies launched their conquest of the civilized corners of the world in the beginning of the Middle Ages heading east, west and north until the Islamic World was the dominating cultural and social movement which had a human initiative unheard of in previous centuries. At that time, Europe was submerged in misery, darkness and social injustice.

It was in Iraq where Revolutionary Islam was born, whose purpose was to continuously confront those who tried to implant autocracy and hegemony in Islamic political directions, and therefore keep Islam incorruptible from sociological implications. Revolutionary Islam does not remove political power from the hands of the rank and file of society, as the prophet Mohammed intended his followers and the world at large to be cultivated accordingly.

It was in Iraq that the Glorious Days of Islam had their peak and all the foundations of modern science, culture and art were distributed from in the Golden Era



of the Abbasid caliphate - the longest period of Islamic cultural enlightenment. For it was Baghdad that reigned as the intellectual cultural capital of the world for centuries, with a library that was said to contain 3,000,000 volumes including books and manuscripts, later destroyed by the Mongol Hordes under the leadership of Tamerlane, grandson of Genghis Khan. The Arab Renaissance was initiated in Iraq after the Ottomans were expelled by the armies of Sherif Hussein of Mecca, only to be betrayed by the very forces that helped to inspire the Great Revolt itself - the British and French. Nevertheless, a cultural reawakening was initiated that led to sufficient development of Baghdad as an important center for Arab Nationalist activity which influenced the affairs of countries in the region, including Yemen, as many future revolutionaries of Yemen had their training there in 1930's.

Yet it must be borne in mind that with all its fantasy, charm and cultural grace, Iraq was the site of a series of bloody events, wars, massacres and substantial human injustices. It was also the meeting place of many different nationalities and ambitious power seekers at the imperial level. But that was the Iraq of the past, with all of its glory and its tragedies. Where is Iraq today? And where is it going? In the Twentieth century, Iraq

underwent several changes. The Ottomans left in the wake of the Arab Revolt triggered by the Sherif Hussein of Mecca, who was backed by the British who eventually assumed mandate status over Iraq in the wake of the Sykes-Picot Agreement - secretly signed by the British and French. King Faisal, son of the Sherif Hussein, assumed control of the government in order to initiate projects that would launch Iraq as a modern state.

This writer knows an Iraqi Jewish Professor who was lecturing at the American University where this writer obtained his higher education. The Professor of Economics was an alumnus of the New School of Social Research, a distinguished higher learning institution in New York. Dr. Bon Moshe, as he is called, would on many occasions recall to me his life in Iraq, and he impressed upon me that Iraq had made much progress by the mid-fifties, especially in its learning institutions. He attributed to these institutions his ability to proceed in his academic pursuits and to excel in his ability as a lecturer, which this writer must confess to be exceptional.

However, from 1959 Iraq entered a period of instability, after the bloody overthrow of the Hashemite Royal family that had reigned in Baghdad since the early 1920's. Several regimes exchanged hands in a series of

bloody coups, until Saddam Hussein finally established himself in 1979 as the undisputed leader of Iraq.

From the outset, Saddam pushed Iraq into becoming a monstrous military machine, hoping to assume an Arab leadership position left vacant by Egypt, after having signed the Camp David peace treaty with Israel. Moreover, Saddam was able to convince his regional partners that the Khomeini Revolution in Iran must not be allowed to catch its breath, and that Iraq was ready to confront Iran to settle some territorial scores which eventually he claimed would lead to the elimination of the Khomeini fundamentalist drive once and for all. This miscalculated effort was a regional tragedy of magnificent proportions. Saddam and his Spartan approach, the billions of U.S. dollars provided by his Gulf state supporters after he depleted Iraq's billions in reserves and ate up all the incoming revenues from oil, all failed to meet their objectives. Moreover, the cost was tragic on the human side and formidable on the material side. Saddam's haphazard logic was not to be undone so easily. If it did not work against a big country like Iran, a smaller chunk of land like Kuwait would make up for the 8-year blunder in Iran.

The latter disproved the misconceptions Saddam had about

his own strength and the regional and international implications of his own whimsical actions in the wake of a new world order. The failure of the Kuwait adventure was a catastrophe.

It is not known for sure how the West looks at the situation in Iraq today, but many observers of the regional/international scene have emphasized that Saddam's continuity is important towards implementation of the New World Order's designs for the region. They cite Iran and the Western oil interests as reasons for this policy, as Saddam's Iraq can be considered as a land buffer between Iran and the oil interests of the West in the Persian Gulf. He will also play a role in keeping the Shia forces in Iraq subdued. Moreover, many Arab analysts like to point out that the continued existence of Saddam is important to maintain the "need" for Western military presence in the oil filled Gulf area, particularly the American forces, almost on a permanent basis. So, it seems like no matter how many of Saddam's relatives come and go, the poor people of Iraq will have to bear with the self-destructive, macho-mentality that has ruled Iraq for sixteen years. Hussein forfeited any real chances of the Iraqis playing the role of cultural initiators, which they could have done, had the Iraqi leadership not tried to bite off more than it could chew.

## Trial of an MP for War-time Crimes Raises Many Questions

The trial of Member of Parliament Mohammed Najji Saad has raised a lot of questions and controversy during the past few weeks. Most of the opposition press defended the position of Mr. Saad, believing that he has been deprived of his rights, especially that of legal immunity as an M.P. Mr. Saad is accused of killing Colonel Abdullah Al-Dhaliyi in the last few days of the Civil War of 1994. His parliamentary immunity was taken away from him without the approval of the full House as required by the law. He was arrested and now faces prosecution and trial. This coming Wednesday, September 6th, the trial continues as Judge Jassar presides over the second session of the Primary Court of Dhali. A team of 20 lawyers are at hand to defend the MP. Yemen Times attended the first session, and plans to attend the coming session. Yaseen Al-Haj of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Saad. He will also report on the general proceedings next week.

Excerpts:

**Q: What were the circumstances leading to your arrest? Can you give us clarification of the case?**

**A:** In truth the country went through a war, as you know from the day of the secessionists until the 7th of July (1994). We were with side of the constitutional legitimates, the side that defended unity. During the war our villages were subjected to destruction and violations, with my position as representative of the district (Al-Dhali), I was asked by some of the residents to defend the district.

Based on the instructions of the President to the members of Parliament, we assisted by sending representatives from Parliament who were Mr. Saif Al-Ammary and Yahya Ghober. After that we met the President in the Ministry of Interior. I did not feel any



pressure except on the 9th of August when I was surprised by the prosecution of Ibb of canceling all my right the prosecution of Al-Dhaliya and the prosecution of Jihaf. I avoided getting into confrontation with them because they are a legal authority, so I advised the members of Parliament that I am being caused by the prosecution in Ibb for reasons which I do not comprehend or know about. The members of Parliament accepted my complaint, and before that I have a letter from the speaker of Parliament, on 9/6/1995 a photocopy can be found with the administrator of Al-Dhali, who agreed with it and endorsed it accordingly. What surprised me was that there was a ploy set up against me to prevent me from carrying out my job in Parliament. At the same time when I knew that my case was presented to the Parliament, and Parliament refused to request my attendance, I came up to Sana'a and met the Sheikh (Abdullah Al-Ahmar), since the session was over. Indeed I returned to assume my duties in Parliament from them until now. I then met the President and he gave me a letter to Parliament, which was blunt and clear as the sun, which gave instructions) to stop pursuing me and follow up after me, since (my case) is dealt with by the decision or decree for general amnesty, which is considered a law. I am confident that the president will stand by the Amnesty decree which is issued. I had assumed the case to be over, but when we arrived at Al-Dhali on the 24 to look after

some of the problems of the district, I presented a letter to the Minister of Interior and the General Prosecutor requesting that I should not be pursued, and the letter is available. He deliberately lied, since I was not placed under house arrest, as he said, but I was put in a prison.

**Q: What treatment did you get and have you been getting now in prison. Have you been allowed to see a doctor?**

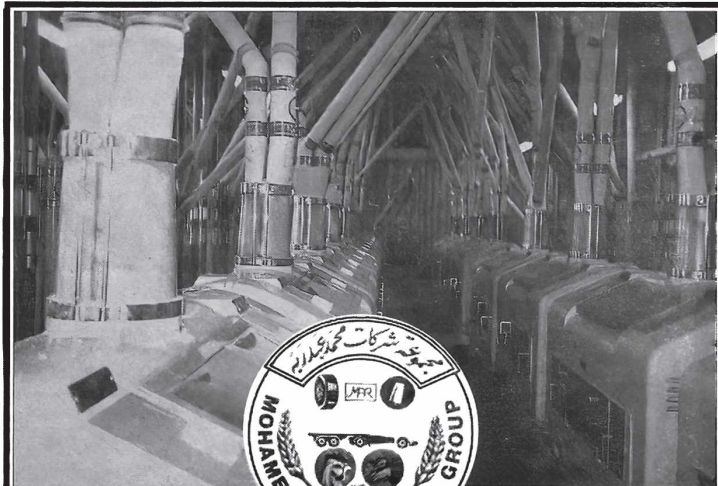
**A:** In the beginning the prosecution in Ibb treated me like a criminal, and probably not even a criminal doesn't get subjected to the same type of psychological terror I was confronted with, in view of the terrorizing and oppressive steps I had to go through. I was put in a car full of heavy weapons and this was in Ibb.

As for Sana'a, they had used a car used for professional criminals as though I was a narcotics or liquor smuggler. We never heard that these methods were even used in Yemen. As for my health condition, I have not been shown to any doctor or been allowed to see my doctor was forgotten and rejected, although I suffer from diabetes. The prison authorities in Ibb and Al-Dhali were very kind and so was their treatment of me. The prosecution was the authority that was repressive and biased against me, nor without prior notice.

**Q: From your testimony, were you forced to and did you confess to the accusation against you?**

**A:** I did not confess, because their accusation against me is not legal as they claim and they are not a concerned authority of responsibility in the case, since the court of Hijaf has jurisdiction over the case to decide on my guilt or innocence accordingly. I reserve my right of Parliamentary immunity which has not been lifted from me. I shall not get out from prison until my position and rights are restored.

I am confident that the President will defend or back the amnesty decree he himself issued.



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# DESERTIFICATION: Yemen's Impending Disaster

By: Al-Izzy Al-Selwi,  
Yemen Times.

"We are oblivious to this impending disaster. The implications for food production and agricultural output in general, for the environment, for water supply, and for our very welfare are enormous. Yet, we fail to pay enough attention to this issue," complained Dr. Asa'ad Yusuf Asa'ad, General Manager of the Forestry & Rangeland Authority. The man and his team are visibly worried. They have reason to be. The country is being desertified at the rate 3-4% every year.

To make things worse, the water reservoir of the country is being depleted at a rate unknown in any other part of the world. The landscape is being damaged, including age-old terraces and farmlands which have become fallow. Rare trees, animals and other fauna and flora are being lost. Indeed, the picture is bleak. What little is being done is at the Forestry & Rangeland Authority. But it is not enough. "Every year, we provide some 800,000 new seedlings as part of our tree-planting campaign. Any citizen, company, association or whatever body is welcome to

have these. We also provide technical assistance and training," Dr. Asa'ad said.

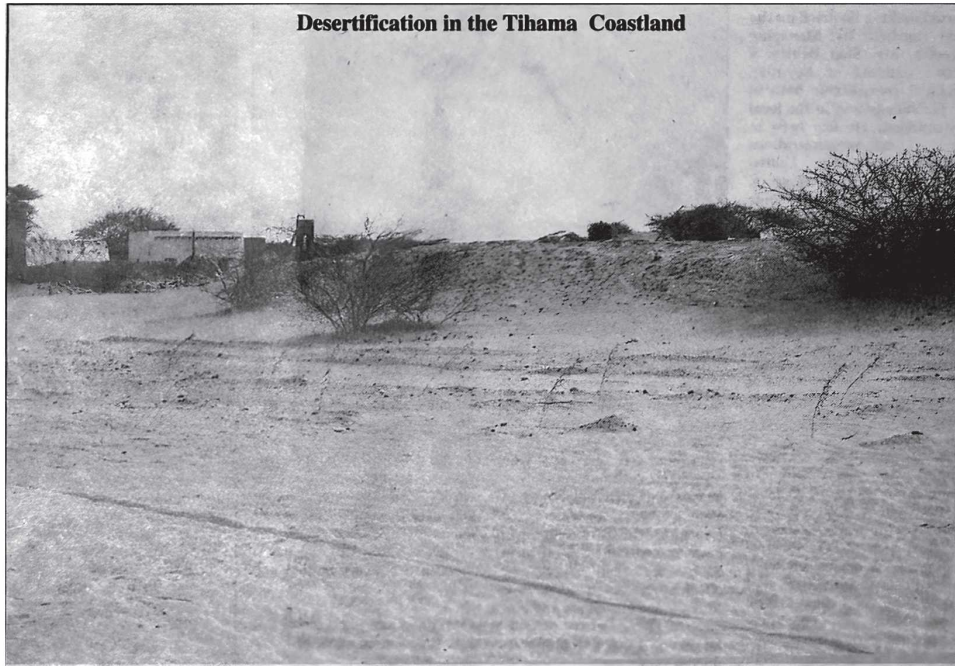
The Authority also has anti-erosion projects. "Wind erosion is our worst enemy. Our coastal stretch, which at one time was green, is today almost a desert," he explains.

One of the model successes of the Authority is the project at the outskirts of Zabid, on the Tihama. There, several walls of trees have provided adequate protection against the moving sand dunes which are pushed by strong winds. Today, that advance has been stopped.

"It is clear that the resources of the government are not enough to adequately meet this challenge. It is also clear that foreign financing, however generous, is not going to do the job. So we are looking for ways and means to mobilize funds among the people, especially those who benefit from the projects," he said.

Hence the new drive to engage the NGOs on a matching fund system. "We are now looking for projects in collaboration with efficient and effective NGOs. One such project is the nursery project being implemented this year in cooperation with the Hadharem Welfare Association. I am happy

Desertification in the Tihama Coastland



Bura' Forest



that implementation of this project will take place starting from October. In fact, the technical team will visit the region on September 2nd and 3rd," he added.

The Authority saw fit to expand in its nursery projects in order to create local sources of trees. Today, it already has 20 major nurseries. "But these are all government owned, we now want to experiment in private nurseries. Privatizing the facilities and services is going to expand our outreach as more and more people get involved," he added.

"The media has not been helpful in raising public awareness on the issues of the environment, desertification and other relations issues. Add to this the nature of our work. The fruit of our work is very long term. You plant a tree today, people appreciate it much time later. Thus, in a polit-

ical system governed and motivated by pressure from urgent needs, we are not seen as an urgent priority," said the official. That is why, the contribution of the Yemeni side is almost negligible.

On the other hand, international support has been generous. At the moment, the Forestry and Rangeland Authority implements some 32 projects in cooperation with the UN Environmental Agency. "These vary from desertification and tree planting, to protection of waterfalls and river/wadi banks, and drainage systems," Asa'ad said.

At the same time, a Swiss aid program releases on average one million US dollars every year to cover many expenses including the salaries of foreign experts and personnel working with the Authority.

Yemen does not really have forests in the full sense. Yet there are regions with dense trees such as Bura'a in the Tihama, Milhan in the Mahweet, and along the Yemeni-Omani border in Al-Mahara. There are in addition, the dense shrubs and other rare vegetation and trees which need to be protected.

"I think it is imperative to establish sanctuaries to protect the rare fauna and flora. This is especially true in Socotra," he said.

The main problem facing the effort of the Authority is twofold:

1) There is no law that regulates its work. "The cabinet had approved a law proposal which was passed on to the parliament. It has yet to be enacted, and until then we can do very little."

2) The ownership system is neither accurate nor reliable. Thus, many individuals, especially during these times of economic hardship, will place claim to many a hill and pasture land and thus block effort at tree-planting or other projects.

The Authority is also working on a plan to create sanctuaries in Socotra and Al-Mahara. This will be part of a plan in collaboration with regional and international bodies. But I think that the success of this effort will require a firm and visible commitment and participation from the Yemeni side.

Towards that end, the Authority plans to initiate a full-scale campaign in public awareness. "We hope the media will help us in this regard," he said.

They also plan to stage lectures and print brochures and flyers to help get through to all levels of citizens. But in this and other endeavors of the Authority, a lot of resources will be needed, not least of which is funds. "The present government allocations are very small. In addition, we expect foreign assistance to be directed to this sector. After all, environmental problems do not stop at problems," Dr. Asa'ad indicated.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

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**THE JOINT VENTURE MANAGER,  
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صنعاء - شارع الزبيري  
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تلفون: ٢١٢-٨٢٤

## How Much for your \$

The Riyal exchange rate has reversed itself over the last few days. After having hit an exchange rate of YR 55, the US dollar gained strength and started to rise.. By Friday, September 1st, the rate had climbed to some YR 80 per US dollar.

"This volatility does not help us plan our investments or even imports. The variations and cycles are too sharp to be the product of ordinary supply and demand," a businessman complained.

## Sam Behiry:

# "NASS Leads Yemen into the Computer World."

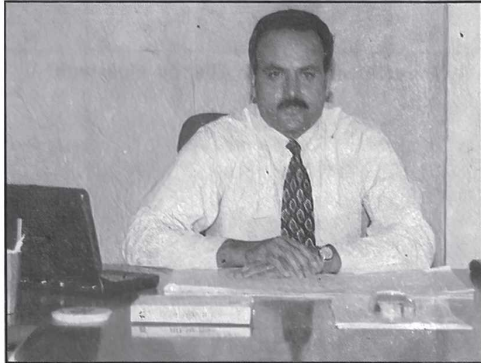
NASS (Network Analysis Support Services) is a new company that has already started making its mark on the local market. Its Managing Director, Mr. Sam Behiry, a British national of Egyptian origin, is comfortable both in the technology and in the local environment. He has been in the telecommunications business in the United Kingdom for the past 18 years. He has held a number of senior positions with ITL (Information Technology Limited) as well as other leading companies. No wonder he has been able to land quite a few contracts. His contacts, reliability and smooth nature have also helped.

Yemen Times interviewed the Managing Director of NASS of Yemen Ltd.

Excerpts:

**Q:** With what kind of background do you come to Yemen?

**A:** I worked with British companies that are market leaders in this field such as ITL, Fibernet and others. Let me just say that I took part in the installation of some 500 of the biggest network-based computing systems in the United Kingdom. Along with the crew of 40 engineers. I not only installed the systems, but also helped in designing and supporting them. I finally decided to start my own



company. I created NASS Ltd. in the UK and came to the Middle East to attempt to transfer our knowledge and technology. After surveying the market in the Middle East we soon discovered a need with regards network requirements in Yemen and therefore NASS of Yemen was created as a Yemeni/British partnership. We have opened our head office in Sana'a and will shortly be opening outposts in Aden, Taiz, Mukalla and Hodeidah.

**Q:** What kind of companies do you represent?

**A:** We are the authorized distributors for 3Com, Motorola, INTERCONNECT Telephone Systems, EPI for Unin-

terruptible Power Supply Devices (UPS), ADC Fibermux, Litton Fibercom and COMPAQ Computers. COMPAQ is the first in the world to revolutionize computing by introducing a 133 Mhz Pentium processor computer, announced last week. It is the number one computer system in the world due to its engineering, reliability, performance, comprehensive network utilities and cost.

**Q:** You made a rapid inroad into the Yemeni market. What is your forte?

**A:** The reason for our success in the past is simply because of our pre and post sale support that we offer to our clients. This is



The NASS staff and engineers posing with their new darling: Compaq computers



crucial particularly in the Middle East. We offer extensive warranties on every piece of equipment purchased from us. We offer a guaranteed on-site repair service within 8 hours and we offer the most advanced technological and computing capabilities. In addition, our reputation for honesty and professionalism has won us clients such as Procter & Gamble, Azal Hospital, USIS and the Central Organization for Auditing and Accounting, and of course, the Yemen Times.

**Q:** What percentage of the market do you think you're supplying at the moment?

**A:** We have to tread very carefully mainly because we are dealing with a market that is new to modern computing and network technology. Therefore, we are initially aiming for 15% of the local market. This is in the field of computing.

In the field of networking however, the matter is different. In our opinion, power is the capability to move information from one location to another as quickly and efficiently as possible rather than how modern and advanced the individual computer is. Therefore, we put a lot of emphasis on the networking as well as the computing side of the business. This is the market we really choose to target and we hope to secure 20% of its demand.

**Q:** How would you describe the Yemeni market?

**A:** It is a demanding, virgin market that is developing and learning very quickly. We are keen to be in the forefront of this development and are pleased to be able to invest in this country's future. In the meantime we are happy to offer our cooperation and expertise to our competitors in order to bring

Yemen in line with modern computing and network technology. It is important that modern technology is applied properly in Yemen. We can achieve this through cooperation with the government and the many local companies found here. I am confident that together we can play a part in developing an effective computer network infrastructure in Yemen.

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

**A:** The main problem is lack of awareness and we are trying to remedy this through a series of seminars and exhibitions. The main message we are trying to get across is that it is important to invest in the right equipment and technology supported by experienced engineers in order to ensure an efficient and future proof solution. We can deliver such a product and service.



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## مبروك يا معاذ

بين لفيف من الأمل والأصدقاء والجيران ، تم في الأسبوع الماضي زفاف الشاب الدكتور

معاذ عبدالغني قاسم الشرجبي

فالف مبروك وأدام الله السرور .

عن جميع سكان مجمع أعضاء هيئة التدريس في شارع الستين:

د/عبدالعزيز السقاف



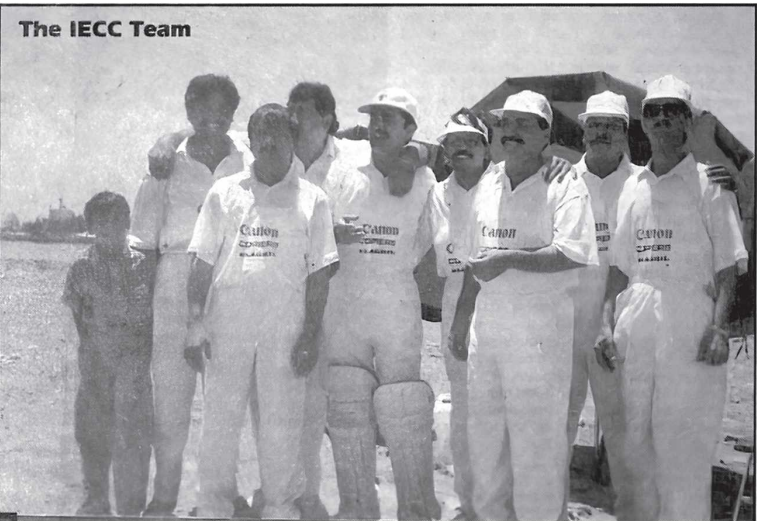
# Cricket League Competition Stiffens

IECC scored an exciting victory over MRF in the second round of the Yemen Cricket League played at the Al Thawra ground on 1/9/95. They won the match by 24 runs. IECC captain Suresh, called the coin correctly and as expected elected to bat. Sunil & Narendra started the innings. MRF opening bowler, Khan bowled Sunil in the second over for duck. Narendra and Tahir put up a good second wicket stand of 60 runs when Tahir was bowled by Prem in the 13th over. Anthony was quickly disposed off for nought in a good spell of bowling by Jeff. After the water break Narendra & Abbas kept the score board moving at the brisk pace with attractive hitting all round the wicket. In the 18th over Abbas was run out for 17. Shortly thereafter Narendra was run out for 25 trying to take an impossible run. Srinivas who came in at number 8 showed good form by scoring 20 quick runs. At the end of the mandatory overs

IECC had scored 133 for 7 wickets. IECC pressed into service with as many as seven bowlers. Benson & Prem started the MRF innings well with an opening wicket partnership of 43. However, in the ninth over Benson was caught by Sunil of the bowling of Abbas. MRF chasing a target of 134 for victory were unable to maintain the required run rate. In the twelfth over Hasim was able to get the edge of Imran's bat and Abbas took a brilliant catch in the slips. In the next over Shymal stumped Prem of the Bowling of Abbas. With the introduction of Vyas the MRF innings fell away. In his first over new-comer Gautam was superbly caught by Tahir at the long leg boundary line. In his next over Reubin hit a skier which Hasim judged and caught well. The best IECC bowler was Vyas who took 6 wickets for 24 in 5 overs. The tail-enders of the MRF team, Periera (14) & Khan (10) played well and remained not out. The MRF team was restricted to just 107 runs for 9 wickets. Vyas was declared man to the match and 5 points each for the fielder of the season were awarded to Shyamal & Jeffrey.



The MRF Team



The IECC Team

### The Scoreboard of the Game

IECC	Score	MRF	Score
SUNIL AGNIHOTRI	0	BENSON	22
NARENDRA PUNWANNEY	25	PREM	18
TAHIR ALAM	30	IMRAN	1
ANTHONY	0	SHESHADRI	13
ABBAS	17	GAUTAM	7
MADHUKAR	7	REUBEN	1
VYAS	6	MANI	6
SHRINIVASAN not out	20	JEFF	4
SURESH not out	2	PRAKASH	0
		PERIERA not out	14
		KHAN not out	10
EXTRA	26	EXTRA	13
Total for 7 Wickets	133	Total for 9 Wickets	109

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Republic of Yemen.

Continued from page 1:

## Beijing Women's Conference . . .

After getting married, the duty of a Yemeni wife is seen as that of serving her husband, attend to all his needs and to have his children. My impression is that the wife has no right to express an opinion, and that she should only obey.

I attended the marriage of a friend's sister last month. It was exceptionally expensive. The dowry takes many shapes and forms. There is the jewelry that the groom has to buy for the bride. There is the (kiswah) or the clothes, the groom is supposed to provide for his bride. The marriage party is celebrated at several intervals. The groom has to invite hordes of relatives, friends and neighbors and to entertain them. On the wedding night, the groom has to hire bands and singers to sing, dance and perform for the guests.

It is true the groom ends up with a major financial burden; however, he has purchased almost a servant whom he does not have to pay for her services.

In Yemen, educated women have a hard time finding a husband. There are many highly educated women who are still single. This is partly because educated women are more self-confident and do not agree to become subservient to their male partners. They are also independent, as they know exactly what they want and they realize that they are on their way to improving their position in society.

It will take a few more years to convince Yemeni men that women deserve a larger role in society. I think that men will eventually agree, like they have in other parts of the world. In a traditional society like that of Yemen, it is usually the woman who bears the brunt of a divorce. The sad part of divorce is that the wife's home and family are broken and that she is also blamed for everything. Add to that, her future remains shrouded with gossip and hardship. I know that in the Yemeni community, marriage goes through various stages which vary on the basis of social, economic and sometimes, political conditions. In the past, divorce was rare. It was even more rare for a woman to ask for divorce. Now, divorce occurs at a much higher rate than before, and it is especially high in the cities. In the cities, divorce is much easier to deal with for both the man and woman because both have more options. Even then, however, society views a divorced woman with sorrow, with blames and with suspicion. That is why most women put up with hell in the home in order not to fall to the status of a "divorced woman". That seems to be something like a curse, which men use to demean and subjugate their women.

I know a patient, a 24-year old woman, who was divorced seven years ago. She looks after a couple of daughters who suffer from congenital eye diseases. I have never seen the father. He shows absolutely no interest in their little girls. The father does not even pay alimony. The mother has taken the older girl back to the father, but she fell sick and had a lot of problems.

There are many more examples, some of which are given in the Yemen Times regularly, like the survey two weeks ago about divorced women. Women are discovering that education is an important tool to change their lives and possibilities, mainly due to their increased awareness from contact with other civilizations.

I feel that change is coming to women in the Arab World. They have a chance, and it is through getting a good education. This way, women can stand-up and fight for their rights in this male dominated world.

In the final years of the late 20th century, it is normal for more and more women to hold jobs in Yemen. Working women now spend about 7 to 8 hours at work every day. This phenomenon has given rise to an important question about who looks after the children and how to best handle this responsibility. Grand-parents used to take care of children when the mothers are outside the home. Maybe that grand-parents are not always available, especially in the nucleus families of city-life. Many working mothers pay for child care at home. Baby sisters or maids are often employed for this purpose. In other cases, kindergartens, nursery schools, day-care centers, etc. do the job. Many companies now offer this service to their female employees.

Some working moms wish to care for their children themselves. They need to be near them and give them love and warmth. Thus, it has become common practice for women to work at intervals, and attend to their loved ones during breaks. This duo-tend, to both work and care for children, has forced working women, specially those with young children, to re-assess their role and priorities in life.

The health status of Yemeni women is at a precarious level. Yemen still has one of the highest fertility rates in the world, as well as high illiteracy levels (exceeding 80 percent in rural areas), and limited access to education. Few families are adequately informed about the causes of illness, pre-



ventive care, early diagnosis of illness and home based health care management. Supply side problems are compounded by significant socio-cultural barriers which influence women's use of the health care system. To improve the health status of Yemeni women, there is urgent need to improve access to quality family planning services.

The government has committed itself to improving the health of women and infants. Towards that end, it has adopted a national population strategy which represents the first integrated national plan in Yemen. Yemeni women need to be motivated and educated to properly utilize existing health services. The linkage between women, population, education, family life and development should be emphasized through well-focused information, education, literacy levels, and changing dysfunctional attitudes and behaviors among decision-makers, service providers, community leaders and clients. This strategy will contribute significantly to the advancement of female status and improvements in women's health.

One of the leading messages of the World Health Organization at the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women, which started in Beijing today, is that health security lies at the core of women's physical and mental well-being. This concept will be discussed in depth by world experts during the Colloquium on Women's Health Security, organized by WHO, to be held tomorrow, 5th September 1995.

In the case of women, this translates into provision and access to information, knowledge and education, adequate nutrition, freedom from violence, the right to work in safe environments, and access to appropriate health care services. Health security also includes the provision of adequate nutrition. While an adequate nutritional intake is necessary for all people, it is especially critical for girls and women.

It should address social, cultural, economic and legislative factors to permit girls and women to be equitably fed, and nutritional taboos to be dropped. A WHO message calls for government and health planners to improve their response to the threat to women's physical and mental well-being by regarding violence as an important health issue. Women need access to a just legal apparatus, as well as to a responsive health care system capable of addressing psychological harm and its myriad of consequences. Through health security, women can have access to quality health care services, and be sure that their health will be met from birth to old age.

This implies that women should be given easily accessible good quality health care services, especially at the peripheral level. Furthermore, full access to therapeutic treatment requires that the female population be included in research studies and clinical trials of new drugs; while the design and development of new medical technologies also must involve women in order to reflect their needs. The WHO/CW has a declaration, to be presented and adopted at the United Nation FWCW, sets goals and targets to improve women's health and to enhance their education and access to equality care, as well as to assure that women attain the highest possible level of health.

The year 1995 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the 20th anniversary of the UN International Women's Year and the 10th anniversary of the adoption and implementation of the Nairobi Strategy. Thus, to hold

such a grand meeting in Asia, specifically Beijing, China, is a gratifying event that attracts world attention. As an important event in UN women's affairs and another major impetus to materialize the Nairobi Strategy, the conference will undoubtedly be significant in raising women's status and strengthening understanding and friendly exchange between the people, especially the women, of all nations. At the national level, the government of each country has set up a national committee or a liaison office to organize and co-ordinate the preparatory work for the world conference, and to compose state reports on the status of women, drawing on gender-based statistics.

The Chinese government is drafting materials on women for domestic and foreign personnel concerned about Chinese women; equal status of Chinese women and their role in economic construction, political and social life and the family, and guarantees for their rights and interests; and friendly exchange and co-operation between Chinese and global women.

While making preparations for the FWCW, the Chinese government attaches great importance to the advancement of women's status. It urges local authorities at various levels to pay a lot of attention to work connected with women during the process of reform.

They encourage women to be a part of the modernization drive, enthusiastically help to improve women's technical skills, conscientiously solve problems facing women, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of women and try to promote equality between men and women. All of these efforts will contribute to the success of the world conference.

Related government departments and mass organizations have put in concerted efforts to complete the following tasks:

- 1- Further interest women to take an active part in economic construction and social development. To encourage rural females to acquire literacy, learn technical skills, and vie for greater achievements and contributions. In the urban areas, the "meritorious deeds by womenfolk" movement has been carried out. It has helped spur the majority of women on to improve their personal worth and make greater contributions to society.
- 2- Push forward educational endeavors for women and energetically raise their worth. To increase the attendance rate of school-age girls, reduce the number of dropouts among them, and encourage girl students in various schools to have self-respect, self-confidence, self-reliance and self-improvement, so as to adapt themselves to the demands of reform and their role in the modernization drive.
- 3- Widely publicize laws and regulations for safeguarding

women's legitimate rights and interests and seriously supervise their enforcement so they can protect their own rights and interests in accord with the law and supervise the enforcement of the law.

4- Train and select women cadres and constantly advance women's participation in the policy and decision making of the nation's political and economic affairs.

5- Protect women's physical and mental health. To promote maternity and child care, improve the labor protection for women workers, and gradually to establish a social security system for women.

6- Draw media attention to women's problems. The elimination of discrimination against females and realization of equality between men and women have been taken as main aspects to cover.

The Chinese government believes that holding this world conference on women will not only enable China to contribute to the international community, but also provide a good opportunity for China to promote its female-oriented undertakings. China Central Television (CCTV), radio stations and national newspapers have been providing timely and full reports. The China Organizing Committee is also going to shoot documentaries, issue commemorative stamps, first-day envelopes and commemorative coins plus hold special exhibitions in honor of the event.

China is a multi-ethnic country. The NGO Forum Committee will arrange for Chinese women from all circles to participate in a symposium on the subjects of equality, development and peace, as well as the sub-subjects of health, education and employment.

The theme of the conference is to seek equality, development and peace through action. Secondary subjects include issues of health, education and employment. Objects and tasks of the conference is to examine and appraise the implementation of the Forward Looking Strategy to the year 2000 for the advancement of women. It will map out the program of action to accelerate the international community and all governments to make new political promises so that all goals of the strategy can be realized by the turn of the century. It will focus on universal issues hindering the rise of women's status, try to determine quantitative objectives and provide concise guidelines to the implementation of the Nairobi Strategy. It will urge governments of all countries, inter-governmental organizations and non-government groups to adopt immediate and effective measures. The UN Commission on the Status of Women is discussing the framework, specific aims and methods of the action program.

By: Dr. Li Jun  
Ophthalmologist of CMT  
Aden GENERAL Hospital, Crater, ADEN.

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Republic of Yemen.**

# Yemen and Eritrea in Antiquity

By: David Warburton,\*  
Berlin.

Around 2000 years ago, a kingdom emerged in Eritrea and the Ethiopian Highlands which was destined to flourish almost until the present day: the Kingdom of Aksum. Aksum is not only similar to Yemen in having been a highland state with many parties contending for power at the center, and closely related to Yemen since the script used in Ethiopia and Eritrea today is a direct descendent of the monumental script used in the ancient Yemeni descriptions, but it also shared Yemeni traditions, so that some people maintain today that the Queen of Sheba was actually from Ethiopia or Eritrea. In Antiquity, Adulis, the ancient port city of Eritrea was the gateway to Aksum, the capital of the kingdom in the Ethiopian highlands. Today, the city is forgotten, and trade is now shifted through the major ports at Hassawa and Asab, but from some time roughly around the beginning of our era, the port began to serve as a trading station for the newly growing Red Sea Trade. It was at just the same time that the Hadhrami port Qana - near Bir Ali - began to flourish, as Greek and Roman traders began to move into the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

At Adulis, the Italian archaeologists who worked there at the beginning of this century found typically Roman artifacts, such as the extremely colorful Fillefior type of glass manufactured during the period of the early Roman Empire. The same type of glass is found throughout the Roman Empire, and apparently beyond, as it also made its way to Adulis, which was certainly over part of the Roman Empire.

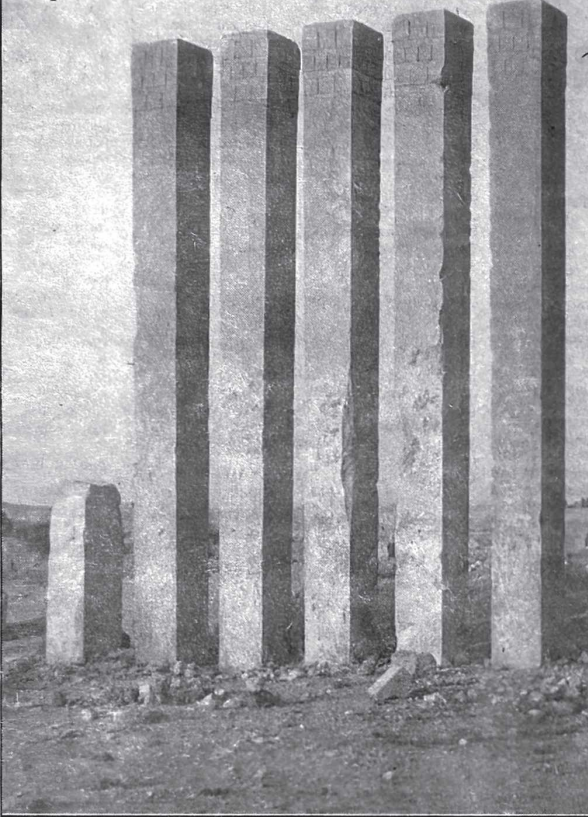
Products of Indian origin also made their way to Adulis, but it is not clear whether they were brought by Indian, Yemeni or Roman traders, if they were not imported by local Aksumite traders. It would appear that most of the Roman trading was accomplished by paying silver and gold, so that Roman coins are found in India, but there is far less evidence of actual Roman exports.

Later records confirm that Roman merchants went to Adulis as part of their trading system, from there some of them will have passed on across the Sea to Yemen, and perhaps on to India. Others will have continued along the African coast. But, some of the Roman merchants actually headed up into the highlands to reach Aksum, the capital of the Aksumite kingdom.

Although it was a difficult journey of 8 to 12 days, the merchants apparently found it worth their while, for it was frequently covered from the coast, the road led through the mountains, and went through several towns. At present, it is difficult to identify the towns named in the travel records with the archaeological ruins which have been discovered, but there can be no doubt that the path led through the towns which have been discovered, although there is some disagreement about which name should be associated with which ruin.

The most important ruins on this route in Eritrea today are Qohayto, Tekondo and Matara, of which only Matara has been properly excavated, by a French mission. They found a church, along with several very large res-

The pillars of Marib



idences, a tomb, and a large residential quarter, all of which revealed direct connections with the Roman Empire, so that Matara must have been one of the most important towns through which the travelers passed, following the road beyond Matara, one arrived at Aksum, the center of the kingdom. The Kings in Aksum had different attitudes towards the Roman traders, and sometimes they treated them well, and sometimes less so. Connections between Yemen and Eritrea will however have long pre-dated the appearance of the Roman traders in Qana and Adulis. The influence of the Ancient South Arabian kingdoms must go back to some time around the seventh century B.C. when parts of the western coast of the Red Sea may actually have fallen into the hands of the Sabaeans.

At Addi Grameten, near Keskesa, but well off the beaten track linking Aksum to Adulis and the Sea, an altar was found which was inscribed in an early form of the South Arabian script, dedicated to a South Arabian deity, *Ahat Himyam*. Many other references to South Arabian deities suggest that prior to the emergence of the Aksumite kingdom, Eritrea was part of the same cultural group as Yemen, speaking similar languages and worshipping similar gods.

During the following centuries, the relationship between the ancient Yemeni kingdoms and the ancient Ethiopian kings changed radically. The Aksumite kings asserted complete independence, and eventually ambassadors were exchanged. The final transformation in the relationship

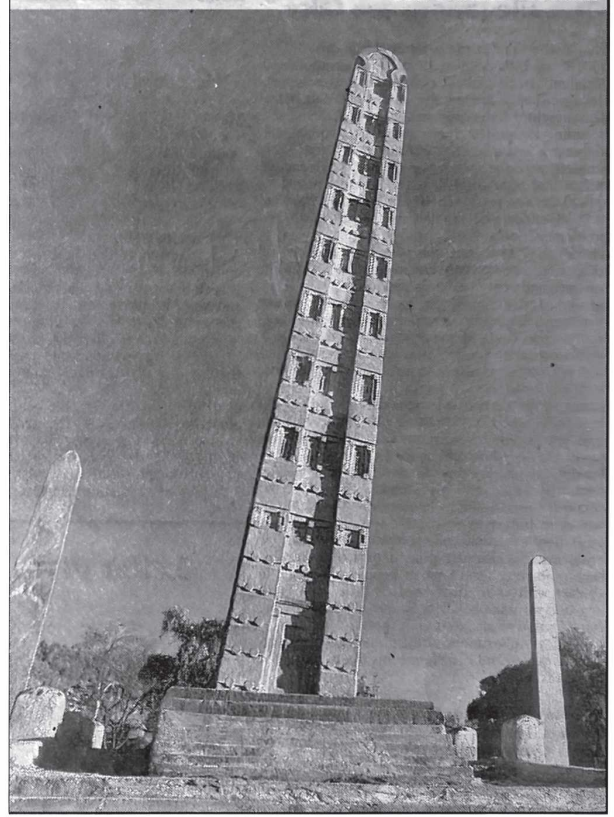
between ancient Yemen and ancient Ethiopia can however be traced back to the appearance of the Roman merchants.

Initially the Roman merchants merely pursued the same trade involving spices, incense and ivory, but sometime during the fourth century of our era, it would appear that Christianity was introduced to Aksum through the Roman merchants. At one point, the Byzantine empire actually supported the Aksumite kings in a military mission to Yemen, and the conquering general Abraha eventually erected a magnificent cathedral in the middle of Sana'a. The apses of this church is still visible at the midan al-Qalis in the Old City of Sana'a. Abraha very soon made himself an independent king, loyal neither to the Ethiopians nor the Yemenis, with the result that native Yemeni Himyarite rulers sought the aid of the Sassanians in order to free themselves from the yoke of the independent Aksumite general. This resulted in the ephemeral Persian domination of Yemen which preceded the emergence of Islam.

In antiquity, it was the Yemenis who set the example for the Aksumites, exploring the trade routes, and exploring the trade routes, and establishing the necessary connections, responding to the changed world, and there can be little doubt that in ancient times it was the Yemeni traders who went further abroad than their Aksumite cousins.

\* David Warburton is an American scholar and archaeologist and a regular contributor to the Yemen Times.

The obelisks of Axum



## Ethiopia Accuses Sudan of Masterminding Assassination Attempt on Mubarak's Life

By: Afrah Mohamed,  
Yemen Times,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Yesterday, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs disclosed that Sudan is sheltering three terrorists who managed to escape following the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on June 26, 1995.

"On this day, nine assassins entered Ethiopia while two remained abroad to play key roles in planning, directing and executing the conspiracy," reads a communique released by the Ethiopian government. Of the nine who entered the country, five were killed and three were captured. Only one managed to escape. The Ethiopian government has engaged in the effort to have the three terrorists extradited to Ethiopia.

The National Islamic Front, operating behind the Sudanese government, is being held responsible for the assassination attempt. The Ethiopian government also blames this extremist group of "frustrating any positive initiatives taken over the last four years by Ethiopia to ensure the further enhancement of friendship" between the two countries.

Although the Sudanese government does not deny the presence of the three terrorists on its territory, it has refused to hand them over to the Ethiopian authorities.

In response to the Sudanese government's lack of cooperation, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has sent a high level Ethiopian delegation for consultation with the Sudanese President. In addition, Zenawi has issued a

statement in which he states, "the prevailing circumstances have compelled the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in order to protect and defend the interests and security of the people of Ethiopia, to take all the necessary measures and to examine all available options with utmost care. Accordingly, it is difficult to continue with our relations with the Sudan as before..."

In accordance with this statement, the statement notes diplomatic measures have been taken against the Sudan. The Ethiopian government has decided to limit the number of diplomats at the Sudanese embassy in Addis Ababa to a maximum of five, and allowed the extra personnel to leave within one week. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had accused Sudan of the attempt on his life immediately after the incident. Sudan denied the charge, and relations between the two neighbors deteriorated rapidly, and verged on a full-scale war.

At another level, relations between Khartoum and Asmara have also fallen to an all-time low. The Eritrean President, Mr. Asias Afwerke, in an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times recently, disclosed that his government has given up on working with the rulers in the Sudan.

The Sudanese rulers are thus surrounded by neighbors who have expressed open animosity. They all claim to have been frustrated by the endless meddling of Khartoum in their internal affairs.

## Letters to the Editor

### Sanaa Passport Officer Responds:

#### "The allegations are false."

The Yemen Times ran a letter (Issue No. 33/95, Vol. V, of 14th August, 1995, from an un-named "resident" talking about corruption at the airport. He specifically named me as having demanded \$100 in return for issuing an airport visa.

I write to protest that such allegations are unfounded and incorrect. Whenever someone has a problem with the law, he or she starts fabricating this or that accusation. It is the law that residents should have an exist visa. If the concerned traveller did not understand the law well, that is his/her problem, not ours.

Therefore, I challenge this so-called resident or rather liar to come forth and present his/her case in the open and prove his/her allegations.

Second, I strongly object to the Yemen Times printing such allegations without enough investigation or checking. Many a dishonorable person - whether local or foreign - may have an axe to grind and engage in character assassination. I believe what happened to me is one such case.

I trust in the decency of the people managing the Yemen Times, but they often fall victim to their own preconceptions and attitudes. Thus, they are easily convinced on certain allegations.

Finally, let me say that we are doing our best to serve the passengers and protect them and the country. I would like to indicate that the nature of our work brings us in contact with a steady and large flow of people. Inadvertently, there must be problems. It is also part of our duty to try to resolve such problems. Thus I ask of people who come in contact with us to kindly bear with us, and bring any inappropriate behavior to our attention, before running wild accusations to the press.

I repeat, the allegations of the un-named "resident" are unfounded and I challenge this liar to prove his/her accusation.

**Lt-Colonel Ahmad Al-Hamzi,**  
Assistant Manager,  
Sanaa Airport Passport Office

#### Little from Research of Racism

I have seen your article on the Yemen Times issue No. 32/95 on the letters to the editor page. As your article Revealed Helpless and valueless to perfect the AKHDAM peoples from discrimination and also not the time to write about colors.

One nation must be helped by the low and constitution to emancipate him from his agonies with out this, equality and humanity spirit never appeared if you have consideration these AKHDAMS are the reflection of discrimination to salvage then from discrimination it is not my or your ability it is the ability of the government.

They must get moral and spiritual help, poverty and discrimination through and forced them to come down to begging.

You strived too much to persuade us by your GARBAGE Philosophy your suggestion is fairly depravity and pretext.

The teacher who thought you about Racism holding you down, turning you round, filling you up with his crazy logic.

Dear Adnan Don't strut, perceive introspect from perfunctory suggestion. This kind of thinking inclination gnominy and lopsided.

By: Mr. Sunkin

#### REQUEST OF OLD NEWSPAPER

First of all, I send you with your collaborates my best regards and wish your recognized and renowned newspaper "YEMEN TIMES" a continuous improvement and successful in every time.

I am a Somali citizen and was regular reader at your famous weekly newspaper, when I was in your country Taiz - Yemen. In fact that time I read a lot of interesting and useful articles. Now I would like to send me, as a favor, some of the articles which is sub-described. Although I am a asylum seeker in Switzerland, I have the intention, to re continue in reading your weekly newspaper, therefore, I can not afford to subscribe to it. I would be grateful if you could send me a copy of the newspaper, if possible, with free of charge considering my actual situation.

Actually, I am interested in a number of articles with pictures which you published in various times about the Somalia Refugee in Al-Kod camp, In the newspaper, you had a detailed commentary concerning how in adequate was the medical treatment, food supply and shelter in Al-Kod camp.

I am afraid for not remembering the exact issue number and the date of issuing, but I suggest that it was either the last quarter of 1992, or the first half

of 1993. I hope you would take my request into account and become a fruitful too.

Abubaker Mohammed, Switzerland

#### "I NEED HELP AND THE UNHCR HAS NOT HELPED"

My name is Gizachew Waleign Tagesse, sightless since my early years of youth and an Ethiopian by origin. Like many of my countrymen, my thirst for education and the betterment of my person was unquenched by the restrictive impositions and rampant favoritism prevailing during the socialist regime of Ethiopia. A life of exile and fresh opportunities remained my only option.

As I traversed borders and countries, often in the midst of raging destruction's and genocide - unseeing yet sensing the colossal human carnage and waste behind my trail - yet my handicap always extracting the deep lying compassion of humanity in individuals very blessing of the Creator and the helping it all. without the very blessing of the Creator and the helping hand of decent fellow mankind, my sightless venture with all the trappings of the dangers of war would not have led me past a compound let alone crossing continents.

During my asylum in Somalia, the station branch of the UNHCR was gracious enough to provide food and shelter and process my resettlement to Sweden as a long term solution. However the ensuring clan

wars in Somalia prematurely put an end my prospects, thus turning hope to vicissitude.

My endeavor to enlist the sympathy and assistance of the UNHCR branch office here in Sana'a became an exercise in frustration in the absence of human understanding. As my renewed appeal to the Head Office in Geneva is redirected to the branch office of Sana'a - whose main preoccupation to each and every case of human tragedy and whose racial stand against specific ethnic groups from Ethiopia is presently aired as a major policy front that states "no refugees from Ethiopia" with absolute certainty leaves no avenue for hope. My endeavor to secure resettlement in New Zealand was put to an end by the refusal of the branch office to lend its support by attesting to my status.

Gizachew Waleign,  
Tel. 265399, Zubairy Street, Sanaa.

#### THE DUMP AND DUFF

Faisal, a Yemeni, who works in our office as a secretary.

He knows hoe to operate computer, fax, and other office equipment also.

He is very punctual, hard worker, but, so sad he is dump and duff.

When the civil strife started in Yemen, everybody left their own country....

Our office became like a desert. . . .

## Letter to the Editor: The Shahrara Sham

Dear Mrs. Hurley,  
Your above mentioned reports has very much astonished me, therefore, I would like to tell you my quite different "Shahrara experience" of June 1995:

Together with a very well experienced Yemeni guide, I arrived at Al Gabei. After a short discussion among some pick-up-drivers-no guns, no haggling over prices! - we started our ride towards Shahrara. Later, on our hike uphill along the old footpath, we met some and talked to inhabitants of Shahrara - no stones! After the welcome at the funduq, we crossed Shahrara to see the bridge - again neither problems, nor stones! Back at the funduq, I was invited for tea with the ladies, who were embroidering jambiya-belts and they showed me their technique. Dinner and my room were as everywhere in Yemen, and the broken window-pane did not bother me! But I enjoyed watching geckos on the outside of the windows, which were hunting insects attracted by the light. And as the generator for electricity was turned off, the wife of the funduq-host provided me with her flashlamp!

After an early breakfast and a friendly farewell, we left Shahrara, crossed the bridge and took the footpath downhill. We met several farmers, men, women and children, on their way to their fields: again, friendly greetings and no stones, despite of my camera! When we reached the village of Rahaba, the pick-up with our bags was ready to take us to Al Gabei.

On our way back to Sana'a, we had lunch at Huth, where we met two French families with their Yemeni guides, also coming back from Shahrara. All of them ere very enthusiastic about their tour in Yemen, but in particular about their visit to Shahrara, and they did not mention any trouble encountered there.

Dear Mrs. Hurley, what may have caused the hostilities described in your report?

Since I know Yemen quite well from several tours and hikes also to remote areas in the mountains, I want to remind you, dear Mrs. Hurley, that our behavior (as guests) and attitude show (or do not show) our respect for the citizens of our host-country-hence their reactions. Two proverbs are applicable in this context:

"The echo repeats only our own words/voice" and "It's the sounds which make the music"

My last comment, also on the proverb cited by you ("Don't bite the hand that feeds you"): It is a well known phenomenon all over the world (certainly also in your own home-country) that tourism causes the rising of prices and that everybody tries "to make the best of tourism. Mind you, I know very well what I am talking about: I am living in a tourism region where hotel owners are sometimes called "the modern robber knights!"

Dear Mrs. Hurley, I would very much appreciate to know your reply! Thanks in advance!

Sincerely yours,  
U. Schwendener, Switzerland

Dear Ms. Schwendener,  
I am pleased that you and several other couples had a good experience at Shahrara and I am in full agreement with your opinion that the attitudes of travelers will affect their host's reaction to them. Although both of our experience differ greatly, both are equally valid and both deserve to be heard. I'm sad that I can't share yours.

In retrospect, I cannot say that I wasn't warned about Shahrara. In the *Lonely Planet* travel guide, they are

But Mr. Faisal, who couldn't hear the sound of bombing, the jets, and the music.

But, worked in the office as a silent patriot. . . . He worked together for the nation.

Look at Faisal, who doesn't like to beg, who doesn't like to chew qat,

who doesn't like to smoke, having family and children.

His life is totally dark mind is gloomy but making good friends.

One day I asked Mr. Faisal, "can you hear the sound of your children?" they speak, I think they making sounds also, but I couldn't hear anything"

Faisal answered. "It is may be the wish of God". he relaxed.

Faisal explained to me with his old medical reports: "I was normal during my childhood, when I was ten, I was playing on a big wall, I was unconscious for many days, then I slowly recognized, I lost my sound and hearing capacity. . . .

Thanks to my employers 'the Hayel Group', at least they provided me a good job. I am dump and duff, but working with directors thanks to God jock . . .

"Thanks to God also". He concluded with his tongue and by action.

Remember . . . he is very sensitive. . . .

If you can love him, he will give his life to you. Meet him one day in Taiz, if you have spare time.

Mr. Faisal is looking for a further treatments in UK or USA, for a better tomorrow, if God will.

Hope, somebody will sponsor him.

By: Faisal Abdul-Hamid,  
Sanaa.

also quite clear on Shahrara's unseemly reputation.

"During the tourist boom of the late 1980's the Shahrara's converted their hostility and suspicion towards strangers into greed for the travelers seemingly plentiful money". (134) Not being one to believe everything that I read, I checked out Shahrara for myself, and now unfortunately, I find myself in agreement with this statements as do many other people who phoned the Yemen Times office to share similar 'sham; experiences.

You imply in your letter that we provoked these hostilities. If we did, it was only by simply sticking up for ourselves in the face of outlandish and aggressive monetary demands. Unlike most tourists here, I have made an effort to respect local customs. I am open with the villagers, asking about their culture in my broken Arabic which I am trying to improve with lessons. I respect their Islamic beliefs, read the Koran, and wear a head scarf and jalibiyya in public.

I have baked bread with the mountain women, collected water with them, chewed qat in their homes, and danced at their weddings. It is in these times, without many words, that we shared a bond of humanity that stretched across cultures, religions, and politics of East and West.

Only in Shahrara was I treated so atrociously without any possible reason. I am confident that the crux of the problem was money, as no Shahrara complained about my manners or dress, only about the size of my wallet. This is apparent to any one who has tried to visit Shahrara without automatically paying the asking price, no matter how outrageous. True, we all need to "make the best of tourism", but the behavior the Shahraras I met was not a case of this, but of lust for money, which I could have found just as easily in many other places on this planet but, thankfully, nowhere else in Yemen.

Sincerely,  
D. Hurley.

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT "BOWEL OBSTRUCTION" REALLY IS?

By: Jixian Zhao, M.D,  
Department of Surgery,  
The Republican Hospital, Sana'a.

Bowel obstruction means that bowel content does not pass normally to the rectum. It is a common disease in Yemen. The block may involve either the large or the small bowel and may be complete, mechanical or paralytic in origin and may or may not involve compromise of the vascular supply.

The bowel obstruction is a disease of the very young and the very old. Of all deaths in infancy, 10% are due to bowel obstruction. The incidence of bowel obstruction rises progressively with age throughout adulthood, but there is sharp increase in incidence after age 50 and a second sharp rise after age 70.

In patients with mechanical obstruction, the site of obstruction is 80% in the small bowel and 20% in the colon. The common causes of

intestinal obstruction are adhesions, hernia-external or internal, torsion (volvulus), etc. The symptoms of bowel obstruction are as follows:

1- Abdominal pain coinciding with rushing peristalsis, sometimes combined with audible borborygmus which is the classic pattern of pain in small bowel obstruction.

2- Constipation is present early in complete obstruction.

3- Abdominal distention is usually present and is most prominent with low, small bowel obstruction.

4- Vomiting deigns early and is bilious and persistent in high, small bowel obstruction, vomiting appears later with more distal obstruction.

Treatment of bowel obstruction:  
The treatment of a simple mechanical obstruction is aimed at

(a) relief of distention;

(b) correction of fluid imbalance;

(c) removal of the obstruction.

Operative relief is needed in nearly every case of complete small bowel obstruction and in many cases of incomplete obstruction. The objective of operative treatment is release, removal or repair of the cause of the obstruction and the diseased or necrotic small bowel must be resected.

I have worked in the Department of Surgery of the Republican Hospital in Sana'a for more than one year and I have seen many patients with bowel obstruction in Yemen. They came to the hospital too late, so that the bowel of many patients must be resected because of necrosis. The mortality of operative treatment is between 0.5 and 3% and is influenced by both the patient's general condition and the etiology of the obstruction.

The best advice for patients with abdominal pain is to see their doctor in time.

## CONTRACEPTIVE RESEARCH SHOULD TAKE BETTER ACCOUNT OF WOMEN'S NEEDS

Women's needs and perspectives in contraception have not been adequately taken into account, neither by the developers of contraceptives nor by those who provide them. This claim, voiced by women's health advocacy groups for many years, is now becoming widely echoed. It is also one of the main items on the agenda of the Fourth World Conference on Women, opening in Beijing today, September 4th.

In 1990, 53% of couples in the Developing World were using a method of contraception of one kind or another, compared with only 14% twenty-five years earlier.

Nevertheless, studies show that there are still tens of millions of women around the world who state they want no more children in the near future or have reached their desired family size, but who are not using any method of contraception. One explanation for this is the lack of access to family planning services. This problem is especially visible in rural Yemen where women have no access to any reliable contraceptive methods. "Part of the reason for this kind of neglect is that women's lives, needs and perspectives have not been properly taken into account," women's advocate groups claim.

The special Program of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction based at the World Health Organization, which was established in 1972 to develop new contraceptives and to examine the long-term safety of such products, has initially focused mainly on scientific leads. In the past five years, it has taken up the challenge to integrate more effectively women's perspectives into its work, particularly by promoting collaboration and dialogue between women's health and rights advocacy groups, scientists and policy-makers.

The Special Program has carried out groundbreaking work in assessing the safety of oral contraceptive pills, as well as injectable and implantable contraceptives in relationship to reproductive tract cancers, breast cancer and cardio-vascular disease. This work in turn has helped service providers to give appropriate counseling to women.

However, although scientists may deem a contraceptive method "safe", its users or potential users who may suffer headache, menstrual disturbances or weight gain for instance, may fear that it will have an adverse effect on their overall health, and wonder whether the product is really "safe".

In the Third World countries, programs to raise public awareness in family planning are irrelevant if the tools for implementing the ideas are not available. In many rural areas, the facilities do not exist. Even in the cities, the options are very limited.

In the Muslim countries, the cultural and religious dimension to this issue commands a visible role. As a result, governments and NGOs are addressing the issue in a shy and timid way. Therefore, there has been no momentum in developing debate and dialogue regarding contraceptives. To the contrary, an anti-contraceptive and anti-family planning attitude has evolved. This has resulted in disastrous conditions for women who continue to bear children steadily during their fertility years. Thus, the size of families in the Muslim countries today is far larger than most of the Third World.

The situation in Yemen stands out even among the Muslim countries. The problem of repeated pregnancies has been further complicated due to early marriages (girls are married off in their teens), malnutrition (tertiary and secondary malnutrition is prevalent, especially among women), and in general lack of adequate health services.

Death rates among mothers are high, and delivery is one of the frightening moments for Yemeni women. It is not just the labor, but the complications leading to death that claims 20% of the would-be mothers.

It is very appropriate for the Women's Conference in Beijing to discuss this aspect in the growth of women in society. It would be even more appropriate if the issues are discussed openly and candidly here in Yemen.

By: Salwa Sanabani,  
Social Editor,  
Yemen Times.

## The Women's Mental Disorder Asylum in Sanaa

The Women's Mental Disorder Treatment Center in Sana'a is one of the most important projects executed by the Social Welfare Charity Association with contributions from many generous people. Yemen Times took this chance to view the various humanitarian and treatment services provided to the occupants or visiting patients of the clinic. The center consists of an outside clinic visited by both sexes, a psychiatric clinic, an internal clinic with 36 beds, a garden, a dining room, a recreation room, a kitchen and bathrooms. The center has received since its inauguration in 1992, approximately 4000 patients.

Dr. Ahmed Yahya Al-Malahi, the center's manager stated, "The Association has opened the center to provide psychological treatment to the mentally disturbed women who had been held at the Sanaa Central Prison, especially in view of the inhuman and unhealthy treatment those women received."

"We started by moving all the women from the central prison to the center. Then we started treating those women. We spent a lot of effort to locate their families, but in some cases are still unknown. At the beginning the center was considered as a shelter for those patients. Now, with the limited availability of doctors, social workers and nurses we can say it is a treatment center. Currently, we accept only females in our sleeping wards, but we hope to finish the men's ward, especially after the YR 10 million donation of president Ali Abdullah Saleh, during his visit last Ramadan, of ten million Riyals," he said.

Dr. Mohamed al-Zabidi, psychologist and neurologist, stated, "The majority of the patients that the center receives suffer from mental disorder, severe imbalance of thought, insanity, disorder in the nervous system, lunacy or depression. In light of space limitations, we only accept the patients that could cause danger to others or to themselves." The reason for the majority of the ailments is mainly social related like ignorance, poverty, early marriage, after birth bleeding or lack of understanding on the part of husbands.

Unfortunately, many of the cured patients return with even worst condition. I believe ignorance is the main cause for insanity as individuals are unable to cope, and thus look for an escape. Insanity and escape to another world offer an easy and ultimate solution.

"We have selected female patients to stay in our wards as they need more attention than her male counterpart. Our outpatient clinic receives various cases. The center finds a lot of difficulties in securing the needed drugs and medicines since these are expensive. The Ministry of Health pays for some of the doctors and supporting staff. It also provides some medicine and equipment.

"Unfortunately most of the medicine that the Ministry provides is close to the expiry date, and the center cannot benefit from well," he said. When patients are received, a preliminary examination is conducted, then a treatment report is prepared. "We normally start with medication and which in some cases involves electric treatment. This is in cases of hypertension or suicide attempts." Treatment normally lasts for two weeks but the period really depends on each case. Unfortunately, when many families see a small improvement, they request to take the patient

home. But at home, due to carelessness and lack of professional treatment, the patients often relapse and suffer even more.

There are many phases for treatment, but we can limit ourselves to prevention phase, treatment phase and rehabilitation phase. In all phases, the service is lacking due to insufficient resources. Many countries have hostels to prepare the patient to return home. This is mainly a reoperation place before the return home.

There are many professionals who help out in the center. Fathia Ahmed, a graduate of Nursing School from Sana'a University, started, "We work on two shift basis due to the unavailability of skilled nurses in this field. The center provides physical fitness, psychological and medical treatments for its patients. We give them medication, feed them, clean them and their rooms. The nurse does the necessary first aid in case of injury, and supervises and monitors services to the patients. She also informs the doctor of any new developments she observes. Some qualified nurses do various treatments due to their experience.

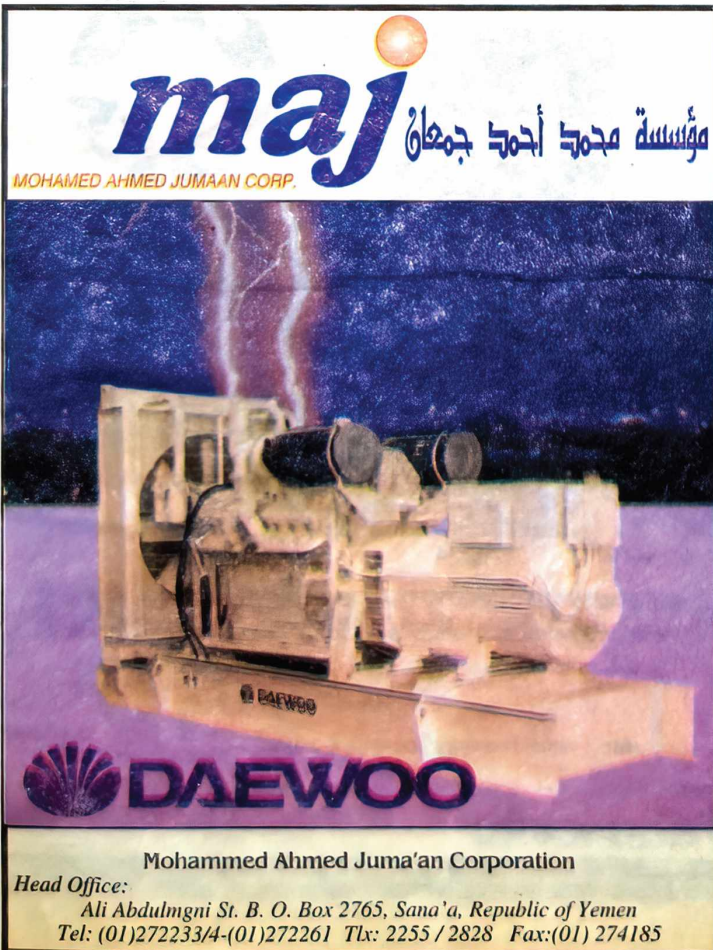
Krama Shiryan, another nurse stated, "We do not only treat the patients, but we ensure their tidiness and cleanliness of the rooms and bath rooms. We, also, clean the patients daily, feed them and protect them from hurting themselves or others."

### Some of the present cases at the center are:

- 1- N.S., 32, married with three children, housewife, uneducated.
- She suffers from visual audio hallucination and talks to herself, mainly due to her divorce. She suffered from her husband's mal-treatment which resulted in divorce.
- 2- D.S., 25, single, uneducated, housewife, suffers from double identity due to family problems and came to the center in 1991. She left the center after a few months, but later returned. Now her condition is improving.
- 3- S.M., 25, married with one child, married thirteen years ago and suffers from hallucination due to problems with the husband and his family.
- 4- T.D., 41, married, housewife, uneducated, suffers from marital problems.
- 5- Z.T., 30, suffers from double identity, married and pregnant, suffers from family problems.
- 6- N.G., 23, has one child, uneducated, housewife, married twice, divorced, suffers from and inherited mental disorder.
- 7- S.N., an Indian married to a Yemeni, suffers from double identity due to her husband's mistreatment and his burning of her papers and passport.
- 8- Z.G., married, suffers from double identity due to not having children.

The center offers vital services that are not available anywhere else. It plays a crucial role in alleviating a major burden on the families and individuals suffering from mental disorder. The government is unable to do much to help this facility, and it has fallen on citizens and companies to lend a helping hand.

By:  
Yemen Times interns  
Ilham Al-Kibisy, and  
Muyyadah Shamhan.



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**AL-THOURY: Sanaa: 31-8-95,**

**(Mouthpiece of Yemeni Socialist Party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Lunatic Person Threatens the Paper and the Editor In Chief.
- 2) The Parliament Presidium Appeals Court's Decision on Mr. Abdul Habib Salim's Case
- 3) Officials Stand Above the Law

**Article Summary:**

**So That We May Avoid Disasters!**

The editorial of the mouthpiece of the YSP was one of the strongest expression of disapproval of the way the ruling coalitions refuses to release itself from its war time rhetoric and apply the real meaning of the declared General Amnesty which it so much makes use of as a media P.R. gimmick. This amnesty becomes difficult to really believe in if the ruling coalition persists on trying to get rid of any successful efforts to organize an active pluralistic political society, in according with the constitution. Moreover, the continuous violation of rights and the difficulties faced by recognized political organizations, open press organs, not affiliated with the ruling coalition, and the heavy legal roundabout faced by so many leading political personalities. On another note the coalition refused any dialogue or reconciliation, on the assumption that their "victory" has removed any need for talks with anyone.

**26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa: 31-8-95,**

**(Mouthpiece of the Ministry of Defence)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Abdullah Al-Ahmar: "Saudi Arabia is Our Great "Sister" Country and We Are Tied to it by Exceptional Links"
- 2) Mr. Sobhi, Yemenia's Chairman, Announces the "Establishment of an Air Cargo Company and the Purchase of 2 new Airbuses."
- 3) Saudi and Kuwaiti Companies Present Investment Proposals in Yemen.

**Article Summary:**

**By 20th September, A Gas Deal Will be Signed with "Total"**

Mr. Adel Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, disclosed that the Gas Deal Contract with Total will be signed by 20 September 1995.

Discussions are also in progress with Yemen Hunt Oil company and Exxon to participate in the deal with Total as the leading partner. The Gas Deal is expected to add US\$ 600 million to Yemeni foreign exchange earnings yearly starting in the year 2000:

**AL-HAQ: Sana'a: 27-8-95**

**(Mouthpiece of Rabitat Abna Al-Yaman)**



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Doctor Iryani Suggested to the Americans to Replace Saddam Hussein with Barazan (Saddam's Brother).
- 2) Yemen Agrees to Increase Total's Petroleum Share
- 3) Bloody Battle in Dhamar

**Article Summary:**

**The Worshipers Vacate Mosque as Zindani Goes up to Speak, Leaving Him Alone.**

During the celebration of the Prophet's birthday, in the Omar Mosque in Al-Mukalla, Abdul Majid Al-Zindani, tried to stop such celebrations by rising to the podium to give a sermon. This prompted the worshipers to leave at once, leaving his guards as the only listeners. Mr. Zindani and his followers are trying to "cleanse" centuries of tradition and rituals through a puritanical interpretation of the Quran and Prophet Mohammed's teachings.

**AL-AYYAM: Aden: 30-8-95**

**(Independent)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Abdul-rahman Al-Jifry Denies Requesting Postponement of his Trial in Order to Send Defense Lawyers.
- 2) Large Fire Ball in Al-Mukalla But Fire Fighting Equipment Not Prepared for the Job.
- 3) Danger Threatens Aden Airport Because of Abundance of Too Many Army Vehicles Using the Runway.
- 4) Taiz Water problem on its Way to a Solution

**Article Summary:**

**Two Groups Compete for First Phase of Aden Free Zone Project**

Several bids have been received by the Aden Free Zone from companies interested in undertaking the estimated US\$ 400 million construction of the first phase. The first phase projects include:

- 1) Construction of 4-6 berths in the "Caltex" area of the port of Aden
- 2) A Depot Station for Containers
- 3) A small Industry Industrial Zone
- 4) A 180 Megawatt Power Station for the Zone and to add to Aden's electricity supply.
- 5) Auxiliary Services (Administration units and a Commercial Center)

Of all the bids for the concession types of contract, 2 are competing heavily for the concession:

- 1- MBI: a consortium of American British and Singapore which includes Sir William Harrow the Engineering firm that undertook the design stage of the project.
- 2- The Arab Company for Investment headed by Abdurahman Bin Khalid Bin Mahfouz, a partner of Mr. Ross Pero, the former independent candidate for the presidency of the United States of America who runs several duty Free zones in the US.

**AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a: 30-8-95**

**(Official)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Return a Large Quantity of Looted Goods in Lahej Governorate
- 2) Yahya Al-Mutawakil: "The ruling coalition faces some minor disputes and the mechanism for overcoming them is available".
- 3) "In our country, there is enough foreign exchange to last Yemen for the next 5 years," Says the Chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

**Article Summary:**

**The Deputy Chairman of the General Board For Books:**

**(Central Library): 1000 Libraries For Every Neighborhood**

Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Khamisy, Deputy Chairman of the Antiquities, Manuscripts, and Public Libraries, disclosed that the General Board For Books is presently studying a project to build 1000 libraries throughout the Republic of Yemen, so that all the neighborhoods will each have their own small library. The effort will require the inputs of the General Board, The National Book Society (an NGO), and the residents of the respective neighborhoods. The General Board will participate by providing technical assistance, some materials (books and shelves) and coordination.

**AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a: 29-8-95**

**(Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Two Lawyers Are Beaten Up
- 2) The Opposition Council: A Committee Formed to Study the By-laws, That Seek to Explain the Law of

Political Organizations.

- 3) The Arrest of the Registrar of the Medical College at Sana'a University

**Article Summary:**

**Tanks of Death Roll over the POW's**

The article discusses some of the recently uncovered stories on massacre of Egyptian prisoners of war (POWs) by the Israeli Army during the Suez War of 1956, in which Egypt fought against Israel, the UK and France) as well as in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. Eyewitness accounts recall that they saw 100 prisoners, lined up and mowed down by Israeli women draftees. Others noted that some of the prisoners of war were actually civilians.

**DEVELOPMENT: Sana'a: 21-8-95**

**(Mouthpiece of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Chairman of Customs Authority: "Corruption and bribery are there, but..."
- 2) The Minister of Supply and Trade Meets Businessmen and announces: "Businessmen want stable exchange rates."
- 3) Licensed Investment Projects Since 1992: YR 76 billion and 40,000 Additional Jobs; All by The Private Sector

**AL-MU'ARADDAH: Sanaa: 30/8/1995**

**(Mouthpiece of Alliance).**

**Main Headlines:**

1. Abdulaziz Abdulghani Tipped to Head Al-Shoura Council and Al-Attar and Al-Junaid to Form the New Government.
2. Zindany Has Reservations Regarding Unification of the School Curricula.
3. The baptist Hospital in Jibla Ships out Young People After Christianizing Them.

**Article Summary:**

**The Ministry of Fisheries Commits Financial Violations to the Tune of YR 3 m plus \$ 100,000.**

The newspaper accused the Minister of Fisheries of a financial violation committed with full knowledge the laws. Based on a report dated 15/5/1995, by the Central Organization for Audit and Control, the newspaper outlined how the Minister, his Deputy based in Aden and the General Manager for the Fishing Corporation of having improperly "spent" YR. 3540,590 plus US\$ 98,830.

The paper indicated that the money which was spent during 1994 and the first quarter of 1995, was in violation of article (23) of financial law No. 8 of 1990.

It finally lamented the fact that senior officials of the country break the law at whim, and have no fear of being held accountable for their excesses.

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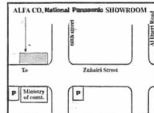
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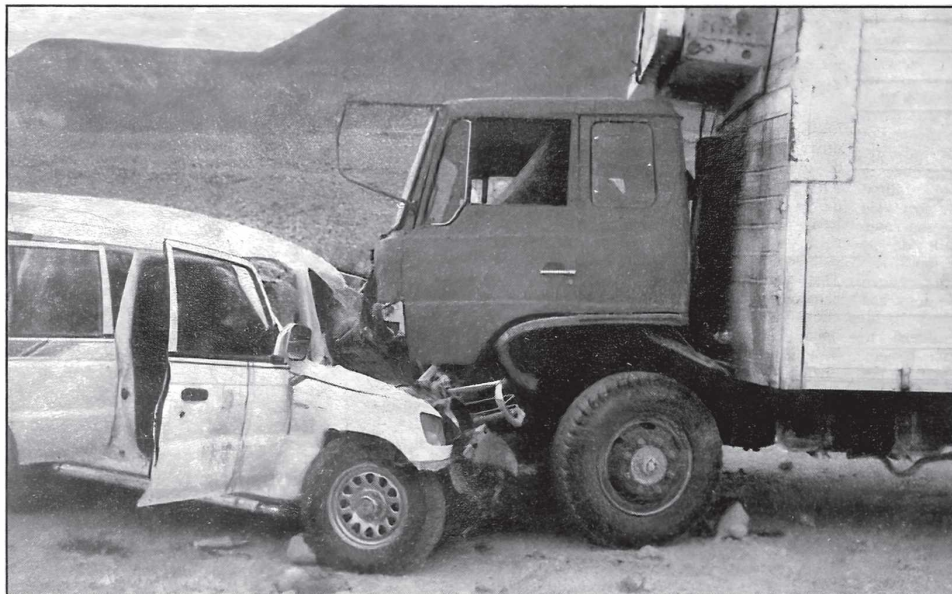
# Mareb Yemen Insurance Company Reaches Out to Its Customers



## Company Profile:

- \* Established in 1974. Thus it is Yemen's first insurance company.
- \* Its capital is YR 40 million. Thus it is Yemen's largest insurance company.
- \* Its current assets are YR 350 million. Thus it is Yemen's financially strongest insurance company.
- \* Its premium received in 1994 was YR 247 million. Thus it is Yemen's most lucrative insurance company.

THUS NO WONDER IT SERVES THE MAJORITY OF THE INSURANCE MARKET IN YEMEN.



**Mohammed Al-Boohy, Director-General of  
Surveillance on Insurance Companies, Ministry of Finance.**

"We have never received any complaints against this company. Its management has always been cooperative with us in upholding the law.  
They are a market leader, and they control the majority of the insurance business in Yemen."

**Fouad Al-Hithrah, Director-General of  
Yemeni Company for Soap and Detergents.**

"We have never had problems with Mareb Insurance Company. I like the flexible attitude and prompt attention they give us when we needed. It has been easy and fruitful working with this company and we plan to continue with them."

**Mohammed Al-Qassous,  
Director-General of Telecommunications Corporation, Ministry of Telecommunications**

"We have been dealing with this company for over fifteen years now. We insure our equipment, vehicles, assets, etc. with them. Let me indicate we do business with other companies. I am happiest with Mareb Insurance."

**Abdul-Latif Al-Qubaty,  
Vice General Manager of Mareb Yemen Insurance Company.**

"Our company has taken a decision to reach out to all potential clients out there. We continue to command the largest share of the market because of the excellent service we offer at the best rate. I don't ask people to accept this. Let them try us."

**Ibtisam Al-Hamdy,  
General Manager of Nugum Public Relations & Advertising Company.**

"We market this company's insurance policies to various companies. They authorize us to make promises on services, and they have never let us down with clients. The top management of the company is very effective and efficient."

**Omar Al-Asbahy, Director-General of  
Abdul-Malik Al-Asbahy Contracting Office.**

"We cover our personnel and equipment with Mareb Insurance. We have been dealing with them for a long time. Our company is very satisfied with the service as well as with prompt settlement of compensation when occasions arose."

## READ THIS !

According to the Traffic Department's records, 617 persons were killed and 2852 persons injured in car accidents during the first half of 1995.

Don't let this happen to you.  
At least get covered.

Mareb Yemen Insurance Company paid out last year YR 35.1 million in compensations against claims.

Mareb Yemen Insurance Company is your best bet.



## Kassim Assabry: Chairman & GM

"We have now embarked on a new marketing campaign. Just because we are far ahead of our competitors does not mean we will sit back and relax."

"The goal of this get together is to bring our company officers in a first-hand and close contact with our main customers. It is a chance to sit down in a relaxed atmosphere and listen to what our clients have to tell us."

"We are opening up to invite and attract new clients all the time. Take a few moments and check us out."

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# Red Crescent Embarks on New Initiative

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Yemeni Red Crescent Society, Yemen Times interviewed Dr. Abdulla Al-Khamisi, the Secretary General. The Red Crescent Association was established in 1970 being an independent voluntary charity association. The main goals of the association are to provide medical care and services, as well as to organize relief and emergency efforts in disasters conditions. The effort aims at providing shelter, food, medicine, treatment of patients and wounded, etc. The association also provides training for nurses, first aid trainees and social specialists. The association has participated in alleviating suffering in many disasters which hit the country in the recent past.

**Q: How do you view the relations between you and other associations?**  
A: Our relationships are excellent and continuous with the national and world associations. We have close coop-

eration with the Red Cross association, the Islamic Conference, the European Community and various other international organizations. We also work closely with the government organizations as well as the many NGOs of Yemen.

**Q: What type of activities are you involved with in cooperation with the Swiss Red Cross?**

A: Cooperation between us and the Swiss started a long time ago. Currently, we're jointly executing a health project directed towards the returnees. The Swiss side is providing one half of a million dollars and the Yemeni side with approximately the same amount. The Yemeni side has already provided tools and equipment consisting of two laboratories, two clinics and specialized tools for health care. We have agreed to execute the coastline project, consisting of mobile clinics and laboratories to serve the returnees who live north of Hodeidah extending from Al-Salakhana to Haradh.

The project aims to help with accommodations, immunization, malnutrition programs, and other similar services.

The main idea is to try to provide basic health services which are now of very poor quality. Our aim is to provide the basic and necessary health care service, improve the environment, ensure proper housing, improve family planning, and ensure clean water supplies. For this last goal we shall start drilling water wells along the coastline. We are hoping for more future projects especially with the Dutch and the German Red Cross Associations.

**Q: Can you elaborate on other projects and activities of your association?**

A: We shall soon put the foundation stone for the Yemeni Red Crescent Association complex in Sana'a which will include a specialized hospital. This will be equipped to handle such complicated operations as brain, cancer and open heart surgery. The hospital will have approximately 250 beds. The complex will contain a vocational training center, emergency storage and machinery and equipment workshop. Financing of the first phase was provided from different international organizations. The association will also put

the foundation stone for the emergency center and basic health care services in Aden. We also have eight operational emergency centers and eight clinics to provide services for prisoners in the capitals of the governorates. There are also two mobile clinics for distant regions and refugees.

The association routinely visits asylums, prisons and social welfare center to provide various health care services. The idea is to provide basic check-ups. In the field of vocational training many courses are provided in first aid, health care, home economics, camp management, disaster administration, and search for the lost.

**Q: How would you assess your present plans?**

A: I think we are ready to take a new initiative. In fact, you can call it a major leap forward. But remember, all voluntary efforts need the cooperation of all sides, especially the media. The media can help a lot by raising public awareness and by mobilizing support and donations during fund-raising campaigns.


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