

YEMEN TIMES TIMES



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Inside:



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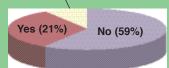
Qadi Isma'il Al-Akwa' looks back at his life

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question: The homes of many poor inhabitants of Socotra Island the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean' were washed away by heavy rains and flooding. Do you think the government will use military

planes to provide prompt relief

I don't know (9%)



This edition's question:

Do you think that the **Gulf states are serious** about certifying Yemen's economy for entry into the Gulf **Cooperation Council?**

- Yes
- No - I don't know

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The most prestigious award ever given to a Yemeni newspaper

Yemen Times receives international recognition

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

EDINBURGH, JUNE 3 — On behalf of the Yemen Times, Raidan Al-Saqqaf, a member of the newspaper's board of directors, received the International Press Institute's (IPI) 2006 Free Media Pioneer Award in a May 30 ceremony in Edinburgh, Scotland. The award was presented by Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell.

IPI Director Johan Fritz said, "The Yemen Times operates in a harsh environment known for government restrictions on free media." IPI chose the Yemen Times for the award because it continues providing accurate and timely news and information on Yemen and the region, as well as actively participates in efforts supporting press freedom, respect for human rights and political pluralism and democracy in line with the newspaper's mission statement: "To Make Yemen a good world citizen."

The award is one of the most prestigious that any Yemeni media establishment ever has won, which newspaper management said indicates the Yemen



Receiving the award (from left): IPI Director John Fritz, Raidan Al-Saqqaf, member of YT board of directors, and Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell.

Times' credibility and weight, especially on an international scale.

In his acceptance speech, Al-Saqqaf indicated that the IPI award is a

reminder of the role free press plays in societies' development and an important tool in reforming the country's governance and policies. "Yemen's

democracy still is in its infancy. We look forward to seeing it take its baby steps toward protecting Yemenis human rights while serving national interests in political, social and economic development," he said.

Al-Saqqaf added that the award is a victory for every journalist, lawyer, educator and human rights activists who strives toward the bigger good of Yemeni society, sacrificing their own personal interests in the process.

More than a hundred representatives from the international community attended the ceremony, including those from award co-sponsor Freedom Forum, Freedom House and Amnesty International, among many other NGOs, academics and media establishments. The award ceremony concluded



Al-Saqqaf giving his acceptance speech.

the IPI's 55th general assembly and world congress.

IPI was established in 1950 in New York by a global network of editors, media executives and leading journal-

Yemen, Saudi Arabia sign accords: Upgrade in bilateral relations anticipated



Sultan Bin Abdulaziz and Abdulqader Bajammal oversee signing ceremony in Al-Mukallah.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, June 3 — The Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council's 17th session concluded its meetings Friday in the city of Mukalla, Hadramout governorate, with fruitful and considerable

The two sides signed the final version of maps for the international border treaty between the two neighborly countries. They also signed minutes on exchanging documents concerning a memorandum of understanding regard-

ing preserving marine life diversity. Other agreements signed included three loan agreements to finance road building projects, the first of which is the Haidan-al-Jimaa-al-Minzalah road project in Sa'ada governorate at a cost of SR 90 million. The second is the Majz-Omar-Razih road in Sa'ada governorate at a cost of SR 26.25 million and the third is for main road projects in various Yemeni areas.

Additionally, an agreement was signed to finance Saudi commodities and services to implement a number of electricity sector projects, for which SR 375 million was allocated. A fish wealth cooperation agreement also was signed,

as well as a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in social affairs and minutes on exchanging documents of endorsement regarding the two countries' customs cooperation.

The agreements were signed by the Yemeni and Saudi Ministers of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Planning and International Cooperation, Finance and Fish Wealth.

The council's session was different this year, as the Saudi delegation was headed by Saudi crown prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, who has been in charge of Yemen's dossier. With the crown prince's visit and signing several important agreements, Yemeni-Saudi relations initiate a significant and advanced stage, moving from a neighborly relationship to partnership.

It now can be said that the two nations' relationship is the best, after passing through various stages that weren't without difficulties and hindrances. The course of Yemeni-Saudi relations is connected with several factors that prominently constituted the nature and quality of those relations, such as historical, economic and politi-

Continued on page 2

Chicken pox epidemic spreads in Barhan

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 3 — According to a n anoynmous Ministry of Health source, reports from Barhan village, 40km west of Sana'a, mention a highly contagious chicken pox spread involving 95 infected

Declining to be identified, the source said, "We actually were informed about the disease Wednesday and a ministry team rushed to the area that same night, diagnosing the diseases as chicken pox. We treated 95 cases all infected with the disease, prescribed necessary medicines and left behind a doctor and a nurse to remain in the village until the next day. After the doctor returned, we sent a message to the Epidemic Monitoring Department's director general, which told us it's a disease not subject to Health Ministry monitoring and that it's not dan gerous. We were told to contact Director General Dr. Abdulhakim Al-Kuhlani. who refused to talk to us, giving certain

Barhan villager Ali spoke about the tragedy and horror residents are experiencing due to the disease's spread, saying, "We've sought the help of the Health Ministry, the Capital Secretariat, the local council and all concerned parties, but they've done nothing to protect our children from this horrific disease."

He added that more than a week ago, a medical team arrived in the village and were convinced about the presence of dozens of chicken pox cases, but did nothing and didn't take any of the individuals to hospitals, as they claimed to

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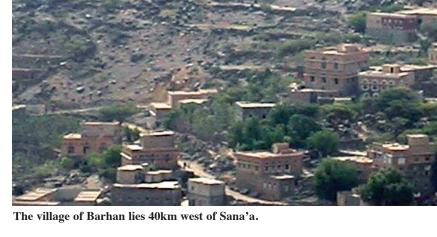
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official media. The team promised to send doctors and medicine to the village, but nothing has happened thus far.

A teacher in the village said its population exceeds 1,200, yet there is no medical center, doctor, nurse or even a midwife. He also pointed out that there's no road leading to Barhan village, so consequently, the sick mostly die on the way to any hospital. "The only road we used to follow to reach our village was blocked by inhabitants of Al-Hamraa village, which overlooks the valley where our village is situated. It was a vengeance matter between the two villages."

Continued on page 2





Alouni's charges upheld

Former Al Jazeera correspondent Tayseer Alouni's conviction was upheld by the Spanish Supreme Court. Sentenced to 7-years imprisonment, Alouni was convicted in September 2005 of collaboration with al-Qaeda.

By: Yemen Times, Al Jazeera and agencies

> SANA'A, June 2 - The Spanish Supreme Court acquitted Tayseer Alouni of being a member of al-Qaeda, yet upheld the 7-year jail term on charges of cooperating with the al-Qaida group responsible for the September 11th attack on the U.S.

Alouni was among 24 people tried in the High Court last year for belonging to al-Qaida. Among them also is Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, accused of being an Al Qaeda leader in Spain. Yarkas, will serve 12 years in jail for leading a terrorist group rather than the full 27 years to which he had been sentenced.

The High Court had ruled there was no proof that Syrian-born Yarkas took part in the attacks but said there was evidence he helped think up the plot, working with a radical cell in Hamburg. However, the same court maintained the 7-year term of Alouni.

The Arab Committee for the Defence of Journalists described this move as unjust and called upon all



Al Jazeera reporter Tayseer Alouni escorted by Spanish police after his arrival at a high-security building in Madrid, April 22. REUTERS PHOTO

civil rights and media groups to "uncover the truth" of Alouni's case, as reported by Al Jazeera. About the verdict, his wife Fatima Zahra told the press: "We will do everything we can to prove his innocence in the end." Moreover, there are concerns over Alouni's health who suffers from high blood pressure and problems with his

Continued on page 2



Sa'ada clashes erupt, 3 troops dead

SA'ADA, June 4 — Military sources in the northern governorate of Sa'ada confirmed that 3 soldiers were killed on Saturday morning as confrontations with Al-Houthi followers renewed.

A new wave of clashes broke out while a military vehicle was patrolling the Jama'a area. An exchange of fire between government troops and Al-Houthi supporters followed. Two Al-Houthi supporters were wounded, one seriously, meanwhile a military camlocate remaining insurgents, Al-Sahwa.Net reported.

MP Yahya Badriddin Al-Houthi, who is currently abroad, released a statement indicating that government forces will continue their campaign of arrests, in addition to implementing tough policies against Sa'ada insur-

Yemenis who belong to the Zaidi sect

paign mobilized in the area in order to suffer from illegal crackdowns by the government. These practices are aimed at harassing Zaidis and denying them their right to exercise their intellectual and religious freedoms, Al-Houthi said. Furthermore, he added that military personnel have assassinated citizens in the northern governorate at

Al-Houthi accused President Ali Al-Houthi asserted that who Abdullah Saleh of inciting security apparatus against innocent citizens.

UNICEF Rep bids Yemen farewell

SANA'A, May 31 — After nearly three years of path breaking and dedicated work for the children of Yemen, the UNICEF Representative, Ramesh Shrestha left Sana'a on Saturday, June 3 in order to take-up his new duties as the UNICEF Representative for Myanmar. During his tenure in Yemen, Dr. Shrestha impressed his colleagues, counterpart officials, development partners, the media, children and young people as a deeply committed professional who was always there to advance the cause of children and women, never daunted by any uphill task. Sentiments, such as this, were echoed by a range of people during a series of farewell events and courtesy calls on ministers and development partners. The meetings and debriefings kept him on a grueling schedule that climaxed during his final weeks in office – a befitting and apt reflection of the tireless efforts that marked his tenure in Yemen.

His vision for a better world and his stewardship of the UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation saw a number of tangible gains for children in some of the most challenging areas. More notable among these are advances in creating a protective



UNICEF Representative with his Communication Team at a farewell event hosted by his staff.

environment for saving children from children. UNICEF staff and partners neglect, abuse, and exploitation; acceleration of girls education; and pioneering work in responding to the humanitarian needs of women and

gave him a warm send-off with entreaties for grander success and happiness as he embarks on his new

Investment conference wraps-up

SANA'A, June 3 — The first conference on investment and human development came to an end last week. Concluding its activities, the conference formulated many recommendations such as a national strategy for supporting and promoting investment and human development in Yemen through the study and documentation of the literature from previous investment conferences. Delegates at the conference emphasized the importance of having a partnership between private and the government to enhance development.

Additionally, the conference called upon the government to provide an

attractive environment for investment, encouraging migrating Yemeni capital to invest in Yemen by giving them better facilities and increased motivation. The conference stressed the importance of the role of judiciary, including the commercial courts, which should be separated from civil and penal courts in a manner that guarantees legal security for investors.

Commercial courts should be financially supported and provided with highly qualified and experienced, in addition to enabling the role of special arbitration councils. The role of the security apparatus should be elevated in securing the legal rights and proper-

ties of investors.

The conference suggested that quality principles and the extension of the role of media in the development process are vital to investment growth in Yemen. Participants also called for the allocation of sufficient funding in 2007 in order to survey suitable sites for investment and determine ownership before land speculators move in. It is noteworthy that the conference formed a constitutional committee named the 'National Council for Investment and Development' that will be primarily concerned with the execution of resolutions and recommendations made at the conference.

Yemen ranks second worse in press abuses

SANA'A, June 4 — The first Arab Journalists' Union (AJU) report on press freedoms revealed that Yemen ranks second in press freedom abuses committed in the Arab world.

The AILI's Permanent Committee for Freedoms announced that it took four factors into consideration when it analyzed questionnaires about press freedoms in the Arab world. The first factor related to journalists' freedoms and the harassment and other annoyances they encountered. The second factor was concerned with the freedom of newspapers, forced closings, and any arbitrary measures taken against them by gov-

The third factor focused on the scope of freedom that governments allowed for information publication and the ownership of print, audio, and visual media. Lastly, the fourth factor discussed the forms of moni-

toring that governments enacted concerning newspapers and press freedoms

Abuse of the freedom of press in Yemen was allocated a score of 17 points, however in war-ravaged Iraq, abuse of the freedom of press was given a score of 18 points. Kuwait was the only Arab country that saw low levels of abuse against the press with a score of only 2 points, followed by Jordan, Egypt, and Qatar.

Forgers tried, deny prosecution's charges

SANA'A, June 3 — The State Security Specialized Penal Court (SSSPC) began the trials of the 23 suspects who are accused of forging national identification documents and passports as well as aiding and abetting the bombers of the USS Cole on Saturday.

Judge Najeeb Al-Qadri chaired the session. The court secretary read out the indictment filed by the prosecution that stated that the principal suspect forged official identification documents for non-Yemenis and that suspect 23 harbored a Saudi national wanted by the Saudi government.

The prosecutor read out the causes of the charges and the confessions made by the suspects during investigations. He said the suspects confessed to counterfeiting national identification documents passports in order to facilitate their travel to Iraq to fight against the American and British occupation. However, the defendants denied all charges levied at them and urged the court to release them on bail.

Prosecution officials said that 315

al-Qaeda suspects were recently released due to insufficient evidence incriminating them. Additionally, eight al-Qaeda associates, who surrendered after tunneling out of a political security prison in Sana'a last February, have been freed, except the suspect Ahmad al-Raimi who has been described as "the most dangerous" of the bunch. Officials noted that 12 security personnel will be tried before a military court over the February jailbreak of 23 al-Qaeda convicts. Most of the escapees

GCC okays preliminary steps to Yemen's entry

SANA'A, June 4 — At a meeting held on today and chaired by UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nehayan, foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states approved the current arrangements for the donors conference on supporting Yemen scheduled for this coming February in London.

The conference, sponsored by GCC member states, aims to collect funds for the support of development projects in Yemen so that its economy can meet GCC standards for admission.

Officials approved another confer-

ence in order to explore investment opportunities in Yemen. This conference is scheduled to be held in Sana'a during February 2007.

GCC member state foreign ministers reviewed a report from the GCC Secretary General Abdurrahman Al-Atteyah about his visit to Yemen on April 15-17 and related agreements.

The council reviewed the technical committee's minutes detailing the special needs for funding development projects in Yemen and welcome the final, official acceptance of maps related to the Jeddah Border Demarcation Treaty agreed to by Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Atteyah stressed that the London donors conference must be constructive and successful, adding, "We at the GCC view Yemen as vital project for the GCC state members."

The GCC Secretary General stated the joint Yemen-Gulf technical committee concerned with listing the needs for development projects in Yemen is to hold a meeting this July. He pointed out that the committee is due to discuss methods to support development projects in Yemen in response to directives from GCC leaders.

Yemenia to launch new flights

SANA'A, June 4 — Yemenia has made amended its summer schedule for flights due to an increase in demand for flights to Beirut and Khartoum. One additional flight will depart every Monday. A third extra flight to Paris will be added on Wednesdays and will be priced competitively with other air-

With the addition of these flights, Yemenia aims to expand its operational net while attempting to provide a distinctive set of services for its passengers, join Yemen with the external world, and participate in developing the tourism industry. In this way, Yemenia would provide the national economy with an inflow of hard currency, link Yemeni expatriates with their homeland, and enhance economic cooperation between Yemen and the world.

Abdullah Al-Mutareb, General Manager of Commercial Affairs at Yemenia, asserted that "these adjust-

ments have been made in accordance with scientific [sic] and marketing studies conducted by respective administration"." He added, "The launch of these flights is made according to the directives of Captain Abulkhalik Al-Qadhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors. It also assures the commitment of the company towards further expansion and wider coverage with direct flights serving passengers, cargo, and air-

Continued from page 1

Chicken pox epidemic spreads in Barhan

For their part, local and security authorities have done nothing to find a solution to the problem. The teacher added, "We are living two tragedies: one involves the blockade and the other involves the epidemic, which is spreading terribly, as the disease now has come to every house."

He concluded, "We hear through the media that there is a Ministry of Health in Sana'a, but we've not seen its presence in our village or other neighboring villages, although we're very near to the capital."

Situated in a valley bearing the same name, Barhan village has one school serving 250 students of both genders. The village is deprived of basic services such as clean water, health services, sewage and roads. Residents live in fear of their enemies in another village to the east, who attempt to seize any opportunity to attack them, truly living under a real siege.

Villagers even must pay the costs of the road they're building, as if not a part of Sana'a governorate, which annually receives billions for infrastructure such as building roads and offering health and other essential services to those in rural

Regarding the local councils' role, villagers explained, "They've done nothing ever since we elected them to be out representatives, to adopt our concerns and issues and solve them in coordination with Sana'a authorities.

The Yemen Times published reports quoted from various media concerning the existence of chicken pox in Barhan village and other villages inside the capital. The Minister of Health previously stated that his ministry had contained the disease or taken necessary steps to contain it.

Unfortunately, when the Yemen Times visited Barhan village and interviewed some of its residents, they were angry due to the Health Ministry's negligence toward them, alleging that the ministry manages its duties only through official media.

Chicken pox is a contagious disease that spreads rapidly amid gathering places like schools. It spreads everywhere in the world and happens at anytime, especially in spring and winter...

Alouni's charges upheld

Alouni who is of Syrian origin and Spanish nationality has gained international recognition as a journalist when he secured an interview with Osama bin Laden, al-Qaida's leader, in 1998, and for his coverage of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

The story of Tayseer Alouni

Alouni, who began his career as an Arabic translator for a news agency in Granada, Spain, is credited as being the only journalist based in Afghanistan in October 2001 to show the world what the US war machine was doing to one of the vorld's poorest countries

By then working for Aljazeera, Alouni was able to capture images of civilian victims in the destitute villages of Afghanistan and the miserable streets of Kabul. His coverage triggered international outrage over the US action in Afghanistan

Alouni's work in that war-torn country came to an end when US forces bombed Aljazeera's Kabul office just hours before the Northern Alliance entered the Afghan capital. While many say the office was deliberately targeted, Aljazeera keeps an open mind, while still asking for an official investigation.

Alluni left Kabul shortly before his office was bombed, following the Taliban retreat and reporting on it. Much of what he witnessed was too distressing to show and he was himself assaulted. "Scenes that, I'm sorry, I could not describe to anybody," he said.

Beaten and mugged, Alluni has not said who attacked him but described the incident as leaving him "in deep psychological shock".

Back to Qatar

Alluni returned to Doha. Qatar.

exhausted and with mixed emotions. Although professionally satisfied at being able to report the war - reportage that earned him international recognition - the images of suffering were painful to

A respected member of staff, the appreciation he received from his colleagues back in Doha helped Alluni recover from his stint in Afghanistan and surgery he underwent in the Qatari

To war zone once more

Despite his deteriorating health, Alluni headed to Baghdad in the second week of the US war on Iraq in March 2003 on his next assignment.

While reporting there, he once more narrowly escaped a US bombardment. That he survived the US bombing of the Aljazeera Baghdad bureau is little short of a miracle. Aljazeera continues to pursue an official response to this attack an onslaught that killed his colleague, Aljazeera reporter Tariq Ayub.

Behind bars

When US President George Bush officially declared the Iraq war over, Alluni chose Spain as his destination for a holiday, thinking that his Spanish citizenship would help him avoid harassment and facilitate movements.

His hopes proved to be unfounded. Syrian-born Alluni, a father of five, was arrested in September 2003 at his home in Granada. He is accused of being a member of a group in Spain belonging to

Alluni was bailed on medical grounds about a month later. He has a serious heart condition.

However, he was re-arrested in November 2003 for fear he may flee the country while awaiting trial.

He remains behind bars, a situation that has sparked outrage among Arab human rights groups, journalists and colleagues, who describe this controversial prosecution of this very modern Arab icon as nothing more than an attack on the freedom of the press.

Yemen, Saudi Arabia sign accords

There are also factors related to determinants of the two sides' geo-politics and their existence in one regional geographic area. Additionally, there are factors related to political and international relations. Such factors have reflected considerable development in progress of various relations between the two coun-

Yemen and Saudi Arabia have managed to solve many of their matters through direct dialogue and over years of dialogue, Saudi investment volume in Yemen has increased. By financing many projects, Saudi Arabia now is considered Yemen's most important development partner.

In recent years, the two countries' viewpoints have come very close; therefore, council sessions have become reqular after a 10-year halt. That convergence has yielded important results embodied by Saudi support for Yemen regarding Yemen's accession to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Saudi Arabia's role in this regard is more evident in qualifying Yemen economically. Yemeni-Saudi cooperation in fighting

terror also has reached a great extent, as well as coordination in security and intelligence. Since the two nations' April 2001 signing of a security agreement, they have demonstrated clear commitment to implementing the agreement by exchanging wanted individuals, intelligence information and carrying out coordination, especially at border areas.

Signing such agreements comes ahead of convening the Yemen donors conference in London, to be attended by Saudi Arabia, which supports its organization. The donors conference comes within the context of international effort displaying a keenness to keep Yemen from slipping into crises that may affect

regional stability. U.S. and British diplomatic sources disclosed that the two countries advised Saudi Arabia and GCC states to assist Yemen and protect it against seemingly imminent failure, especially with estimations confirming that Western nations

assistance did not achieve mentionable development success due to incorrect exploitation. Britain earlier said it will triple its support for Yemen in the next vear becoming the second highest European donor after Germany.

The donors conference will be the first time to meet Saudi Arabia in an international meeting to discuss political and economic reforms in Yemen. Donors are of the view that international support for Yemen is not a solution and that its neighbors should enter into partnership with it to secure success in any reformation program. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, king of Saudi Arabia, stressed this in statements last month, mentioning that his country would support Yemen in facing its challenges.

The coming days will reveal if Yemeni officials could use such circumstances and international support to upgrade Yemen's development process, find establishments capable of keeping pace with international changes and create openness and economic prosperity



Islam and democracy: The Islamist challenge

By: Ammar Ali Hassan

s an alternative, Arab Islamists must ensure that their rise to power is founded on the guarantee of respecting democratic principles. Islamist groups and organizations in the Arab world have been waiting for their climb to power, If not to dominate rule and governance then at least to share them. Then, they expect to be able to practice their political activities freely, with no fear of clampdowns, surveillance and deliberate marginalisation that befell them in recent decades.

Proponents of the Islamist school of thought and political practice believe that they are entitled to lead their nations rather than those who subscribe to any of the other political trends that have surged across the Arab world over the past century. Although these revolutionary movements may have swept into power by overwhelming popularity, they, nevertheless, soon lost their initial dynamism and ultimately failed to deliver on the promise to steer the Arab peoples to sustained political revival and economic devel-

Instead, these national revival movements fell into the grip of despotic rulers, grew ideologically divorced from reality and became mired in corruption benefiting primarily an elite of narrow-vested interests.

The uphill battle of Arab liberals

Arguing that their era has come, Islamists are implying that the time of Arab liberals is over. Although Arab liberals dominated the anti-colonialist struggle with independence, they receded into the background as Arab nationalist and more radical left-wing ideologies which took the fore.

Arab liberals today are fighting an uphill battle, the battle to regain their erstwhile status and prestige.

Indeed, the fact that many are eyed with suspicion as forming a "fifth column" for the American "Greater Middle East" project, which is targeting Arabism both as a framework for a regional political order and as an expression of cultural identity, has made "neo-liberal" something of a dirty word, also known as a conspiracy theory against arabs.

As a result, people who would class themselves in this category are too busy defending their personal reputations and loyalty to their nations to devote themselves to the tasks of winning people over to subscribe to their



Islamists have been able to win a considerable degree of sympathy by projecting themselves as victims of political and religious persecution - as for instance in Egypt.

bers for their fragile political parties.

"Islam is the solution"

At the same time, traditional liberals are losing more and more ground by the day, secluded in their ivory-tower discourse and deemed incapable of competing with the appeal and organizational abilities of both Arab-nationalist and Islamist trends.

Islamists also believe that the Arab nationalist movement's era is also over, because it proved unable to safeguard the important gains of revolutionary governments which it had won in the period preceding and following national liberation.

To many Islamists, the right to prove that they can succeed where other political movements and ideologies have failed isn't simply theirs by default, but its a gained ideology; as their rhetoric - "Islam is the solution" – epitomizes, to them their right is not just political but in many ways an almost divine imperative, as suggested in the indoctrination of younger members and a spate of writings from Sayed Qotb through Mohamed Qotb and Anwar Al-Guindi.

"Resistance credentials"

Islamist groups rest their increasingly strident promotional PR campaigns across the Arab world upon several points. They cite, above all, their "resistance credentials". It is Islamic groups, they say, that have taken up the banner of resistance against the Israeli occupation in Palestine, Lebanon and the Golan Heights as well as the American occupation of Iraq.

Moreover, beneath the Al-Qaeda umbrella, these elements have taken gle against tyrannical and totalitarian for Middle East Studies and Research. liberal their views and recruiting mem- the struggle to 'enemy' camps. regimes, they are the rightful heirs to © Al-Ahram Weekly 2006

Terrorist operations abroad have forced the West into the defensive position, and that, in itself, marks a bold stride forward in thwarting Western designs to fragment the region, in liberating Arab and Muslim lands and in reviving the region's prestige and glory.

The confidence of "moderate" Islamists

They also point to the increasingly widespread confidence "moderate" Islamists are winning among the Arab public, testimony to which are their parliamentary and municipal electoral victories in recent years in, for example, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world, whether through underground activity or by legitimate channels, Islamists are increasingly gathering more public support. In Syria, for example, the Muslim Brothers are regarded as the strongest popular opposition force and, hence, the one most likely to ascend to power in the event of the fall of the

Islamists have also been able to win a considerable degree of sympathy by projecting themselves as victims of political and, sometimes, religious persecution, a claim they can easily substantiate with reference to their climbing numbers in international reports monitoring human rights violations and religious persecution in the Arab

Rightful heirs to power?

They go on to argue that since they are paying the heaviest price in the strug-

demise.

Some Islamists have, at best, a very narrow view of democracy and democratic methods. While they may profess to subscribe to democratic methods and rule, this appeal is inconsistent with their belief that they are the culmination of the train of modern Arab political experiences.

Indeed, this very belief does little to reassure people that politicized Islamic organizations and groups have truly come to believe in political plurality and the principle of the rotation of power. Adding weight to such suspicions is the fact that an influential segment of the Islamist movement is openly opposed to democratic processes, as is borne out by a large portion of fundamentalist literature in the Arab

We recall, too, that Al-Qaeda's number two leader, Ayman El-Zawahiri, criticized the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt for taking part in the recent parliamentary elections.

Interacting constructively with the outside world

That the Islamists currently form the most vocal and dynamic opposition force, and that they have built up a large and widespread base of popular support, cannot be denied. Nor can we deny the legitimacy of their desire to promote the welfare of the people and to obtain the official recognition and legal license to better be able to do so, especially in view of how powerfully they have asserted themselves as a national movement.

Nonetheless, if they truly seek to contribute to the progress of the nation and spare it yet another catastrophe, they must radically change their political outlook. They must restrain their impatience in order to attain power by any means possible, they must demonstrate the sincerity of their belief in the right of other political beliefs and movements to continue to exist and work, and they must develop the ability to interact constructively with the outside world.

Above all, they must come up with a thoroughly studied concrete programme for lifting the Arab world from its current state of decay and fragmentation and they must ensure that their rise to power does not simply change the façade of all too familiar structures of political and social oppression.

SANAA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



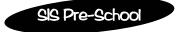
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Job Opportunity PADZEY

Project to Support Animal Production in Two Zones of Yemen

The PADZEY Project is a four-year project resulting from the cooperation between the French and Yemeni governments. The project is implemented and supervised by the General Directorate of Animal Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

To contribute to poverty alleviation efforts, the project aims to support rural development in animal production in two pilot rural areas in Yemen.

The Padzey project is looking for a female candidate to be responsible for the dairy production and transformation work in Taiz, including field extension activities. Field work in rural areas will be the main task of this post.

Qualifications required:

- A university degree in animal production or related fields
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- Young, dynamic, hardworking, welling to work in hard conditions.
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- Able to work in the afternoons.

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Libya's forgotten man

By: Hamid Skif

ince 1969 Colonel Gaddafi has taken a hard line against troublesome representatives of the media. This uncompromising stance is exemplified by his treatment of the Libyan journalist Abdullah Ali al-Sanussi Al-Darrat, who has been missing since 1973. By Hamid Skif In some parts of the Islamic world (Syria, Tunisia, Libya, Saudi Arabia), the media are so strictly controlled that even the mildest forms of protest are forbidden.

In other Islamic countries (Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Yemen), working conditions are somewhat easier; yet journalists still struggle to work under the eyes of a subservient judiciary tasked with applying a legal code that is inimical to freedom.

Critical journalists muzzled

Take Libya, for instance: "Jamahiriya" ("the republic of the masses"), as Muammar Gaddafi would have it. This year, there has been an international campaign to secure the release of

around 500 journalists imprisoned there. In addition, there have been calls for an investigation into the case of Abdullah Ali Al-Sanussi Al-Darrat, a Libyan journalist who disappeared without trace in 1973.

Since the putsch that brought Gaddafi to power in September 1969, Libyans have been heavily burdened by a ban on all forms of freedom of expression. When asked about Al-Darrat's abduction, people are at a loss to explain why he was targeted or where he has been held prisoner.

Al-Darrat was never sentenced in any court, and while the Libyan Human Rights League has attempted to discover more about his fate, all such enquiries have so far fallen on

Most observers reckon that the missing journalist is long since dead, yet no one has the slightest idea about the circumstances under which his presumed death took place.

What is puzzling about Al-Darrat is the absence of any public campaigns on his behalf. Should "the forgotten man of the desert" still actually be

alive, he will by now have spent 33 years in jail without anyone having enquired about his fate.

The Al-Darrat case - a taboo subject in Libva

None of Libya's prominent state guests has ventured to ask Colonel Gaddafi about Al-Darrat's whereabouts, and no one in Libya has ever publicly demanded his release. With the current "normalisation" of relations between Libya, the USA and the European Union, the inevitable fear is that no further light will be shed on the

This will remain the case as long as the political interests of the states involved carry significantly more weight than human rights.

Western leaders' public pronouncements in support of human rights stand in sharp contrast to their lack of concrete action. As a result, suspicions are strengthened in the Arab world that the West takes notice of such matters only when its own interests in the region are

Therefore, this year's World Press

Freedom Day should be dedicated to Abdullah Ali al-Sanussi Al-Darrat. His freedom should be demanded, or - at the very least - the Libyan government should be urged to supply verifable information as to his whereabouts.

Despite the focus on Al-Darrat, other imprisoned journalists, in Syria and elsewhere, should not be forgotten. Morocco, instance, Mohamed Benchicou is currently serving a jail sentence for publishing a pamphlet criticising President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Translated from the German by Patrick Lanagan

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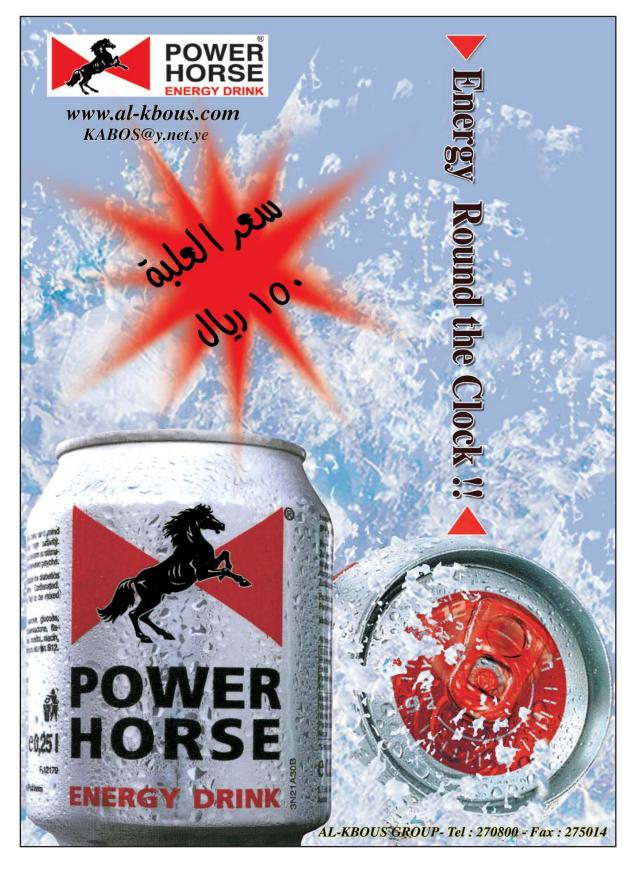


Since the putsch that brought Gaddafi to power in September 1969, Libyans have been heavily burdened by a ban on all forms of freedom of expression.











Fulbright Scholar: My experience in America

Mohammad Hifidhallah Yahya Al-Hamdani, 26, is a Yemeni Fulbright Scholar living in Radford, Va. He won his Fulbright Scholarship in December 2004, and arrived in the U.S. in early January 2005. He holds a B.A. in English from Sana'a University's Faculty of Arts. Currently, he is enrolled at Radford University, majoring in English with a concentration in American literature. He shares his story below.

By: Mohammed Al-Hamdani

've been an ordinary Yemeni all of my life. I've excelled in school since first grade. I really never dreamed of leaving Yemen. To the contrary, I always thought Yemen's young sons should live in, build, and take care of it. These views were the result of the influential roles my father and eldest brother had on me.

The idea of leaving my country and trying to find a better place to make a living began emerging when I was a college sophomore. It was the first time heard about the Fulbright Scholarship. My oldest brother introduced me to it in a very smart way, actually using it as a motivation to keep me going and maintaining my good work at school. He told me if I kept getting high scores in all my classes, it would be a lot easier to gain a Fulbright Scholarship.

After graduating The U.S. education as one of the top 10 students in my secsystem is nothing like in tion, life just got Yemen – it's far more tougher and harshengaging, wide-ranging, er, as it was very hard to secure a well-planned, and decent job. I taught at schools, language institutes and

even at a private college, but most were horrible experiences. It didn't take long to set my mind on leaving Yemen in search of more and better opportuni-

I remember the day one of my

friends called and told me the Fulbright Scholarship – which I always talked to him about – was available and that we should apply for it. We did apply and after the long, tough screening process, I was lucky enough to win. I was extremely psyched to know that through my hard work and determination, I'd finally reached one of my goals and it's worth every single fraction of a second I spent preparing for it.

When it was time to leave, it was a sweet yet sad feeling. I was excited, but also sad to leave my family, friends and the whole lifestyle to which I was accustomed. I flew to the U.S., which wasn't the most pleasant experience, as the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) held me at JFK (John Fitzgerald Kennedy) Airport for about six hours. I was very understanding and cooperative with the process and kept telling myself that it's better late than never.

Being in the U.S. was one of my biggest dreams. I was blessed to have my second oldest brother, who's lived in New York City for about 17 years, meet me. He and his family

helped me greatly

while I found my feet. The first couple of days at college were quite nice and I was excited and happy to be there.

Then, things totally changed, as it was the first wave of shock about which I was told in predeparture orientation at AMIDEAST. There was this sense of loneliness and helplessness. I wanted to do many things, but I just didn't know how to proceed. I wanted to go shopping, but I neither had a car nor knew where the nearest shop was located. Simultaneously, my homesickness grew bigger.

As a Fulbright Scholar, I realized I had much cultural work to do, but I didn't realize the gigantic size of the responsibility lying ahead of me.

The second wave was the educational shock and it was absolutely overwhelming. The U.S. education system is nothing like in Yemen – it's far more engaging, wide-ranging, well-planned and effective. Classes contain fewer students and the teaching style is more engaging. Professors are more approachable and class discussion is stress-free, which makes students engage more in discussions. I know all teachers aren't the same, but this is what I've been experiencing.

On the other hand, students are allowed to bring food and drink into class, which is very distracting. They do many things that are OK in their culture, but not in mine and that's fine with me. Moreover, the student-teacher relationship can be imbalanced at

Another important aspect is students' engagement in school work. For example, I must write weekly journals, logs and seminar papers required in all classes, which provides a chance to progress and frequently supervise such progress. Throughout the semester, there are also long papers, quizzes and final projects, as well as research papers. The overall workload is just a lot bigger and heavier than I had in college in Yemen.

With growing stress at school, the idea of not being able to 'cut the mustard' began to creep into my mind. I thought I wouldn't be able to make it through college here, but thank God, I did better than I expected.

On a cultural level, things were of interesting, but at the same time sad-



Mohammed Al-Hamdani in New York City.

dening. It was interesting to explore and actually live in this new culture. As a Fulbright Scholar, I realized I had much cultural work to do, but I didn't realize how gigantic the size of the responsibility lying ahead of me.

It's been hard trying to ameliorate the image of Arabs and Muslims in the U.S., especially given the current political reality, but I'm doing the best I can to represent my Yemeni-Islamic culture. Most people have preconceived ideas that are hard to change and stereotypes flourish in certain areas and regions in the U.S.

I've had several bitter personal experiences; however, there are many peo-

work, trying to make a good impression and reflect the rich culture from which I come. For example, I gave a presentation about Yemen at the International Rotary Club in Radford. I also was featured in the RU College of Graduate and Extended Education newsletter. Additionally, I've been participating in local biblical studies, where I have the opportunity to speak about Islam and misconceived Islamic teachings.

I also have written three short stories about my experiences, highlighting Yemeni culture and lifestyle. These stories were for workshops in two of my creative writing classes. I feel so honored and privileged to be able to repre-

I feel so grateful to AMIDEAST and the Fulbright program for giving me this golden opportunity, but before that, I feel immensely indebted to my family for everything they've done for me and for making me the person I am. I don't know how to say it, but I want to thank the man who shaped the way I think and had the greatest influence in my life - my father. He passed away two months after I got to the U.S., but I wish he could've lived longer to see me

> Lastly, I hope this brief account of my story has been useful and helpful. I want every reader to know that this experience is a lifetime opportunity, contributing greatly to me in all aspects of my life. It's helped me discover things about myself I never knew existed. It also has made me appreciate my country, family and friends, as it really brought out the real Yemeni buried within me and I can say I'm more patriotic than ever.

as the man I am now.

another country, they'll be able to ful-

fill all their dreams and live with flying

colors. This is absolutely bogus, as it requires a lot of hard work and solid

determination. Nothing comes so easily that one just sits there waiting for it to

I've spent long, sleepless nights working hard to earn success that will

take me to the next level. It takes a lot of heart, hard work and determination to succeed, but one can go get it and

earn it. I feel I still have a very long

path to walk. It's not always going to be

another 'rags-to-riches' story, but one

The Fulbright Scholarship has been

an awesome opportunity for me and it's

really made me a better person. I feel so

privileged to be a Fulbright and I'm

determined to use everything I learn to

improve my country. I want to be able

to make changes, even if it's only in a

The Fulbright

Scholarship has been an

awesome opportunity for

me and it's really made

me a better person.

must give it his best shot.

person's life.

I strongly urge everyone to go out and try to live this experience. However, bear in mind that you need to come back and use everything you learn to build your own home - Yemen - which has sheltered and brought us

I've always felt so enthused to be part of the Fulbright program and to help bridge gaps between our culture and American culture. In the end, I feel blessed to share my story with such respected readers. Thanks to The Yemen Times for allowing me this



Al-Hamadani at the beach with friends.

ple interested in knowing my culture. This could lead to people wanting to know me for the mere fact of gratifying their interest in my culture, but not knowing me for the real person I am. However, I've made a relatively large number of friends in about a year and half and it's been a pleasure getting to

I've also been doing a lot of cultural think that the minute they make it to great opportunity.

sent my culture and present the brighter side of Islamic and Arab identity and reality. It's really a great chance to bring our Arab culture together with American culture.

I want to let everybody who is dreaming about traveling know that the sweet dreams they have now won't come true easily. I know many who

Job Vacancies

Al-Hamdani and other Fulbright Scholars pose for a photograph.

effective.

YemenSoft Company (IT and Software pioneer Company in Yemen) is looking to recruit highly qualified and talented personals to fill the following posts:

Sales Representative

Job Competency Requirement:

Education:

University degree or higher in one of the following subject

- Computer Science or Engineering software section
- Accounting
- Information Management System

Skills:

- Computer proficiency
- Writing and speaking English fluently
- Capability of writing business letters, proposals and reports

Experience:

Three to five years in sales (preferred in software field or Accounting).

For detailed information about the above posts, please visit our website: www.yemensoft.net.

Applications are only accepted online

Announcement

Invitation to Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Three Nos. New

Single Screw Mooring Boats

Yemen Ports Authority (Port of Aden) intends to announce for the above tender.

The tender documents is available to bidding companies at a cost of US\$100.00

Quotations are to be submitted on 10th July, 2006

For collection of tender documents or more information, please contact:

YPA – Head Office, Tawahi – Aden Tel: 967-02-204638 / 202669 Fax: 967-02-205805 / 201541 Email: ddg@yemen.net.ye and ypaplanning@y.net.ye

Job Announcement

Position: Administrative / Financial assistant Report to: The Administrative / Finance Director

The Administrative/Finance Assistant is responsible for providing the support to the Administrative/Finance Director to ensure the control of funds and the implementation of the financial procedures in compliance with Pathfinder policies and procedures, USAID financial regulations and the Yemeni Laws on taxation and social security.

The Administrative/finance Assistant is responsible for assisting in the implementation of all Financial and Administrative functions of Pathfinder for the BHS Project in Yemen.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Work closely with project staff to ensure that adequate internal control procedures are being followed at the BHS Project with respect to the management of cash resources, assets and compliance with Pathfinder guidelines. Assist in the preparation and the review of the Travel Expense Vouchers (TEVs) and

- Travel Authorizations. Assist in maintaining filing systems and other related documents for Finance &
- Administration to ensure an adequate control system for monitoring the fund's expenditure. Assist in coordinating consultancy agreements and relevant payments as needed.
- Monitor the expenditure and payments to the local sub-contracts construction/renovation and training.
- Prepare and update the sub-contract's report prior to the process of any new payment
- Reconcile the sub-contract's reports with the monthly expenditure report from HQ.
- Provide support to the program/technical staff in preparing for training activities
- meetings and other similar events.
- Review the staff advance settlements.
- Review the request for Petty Cash reimbursement
- Perform other duties as required

Job Requirements:

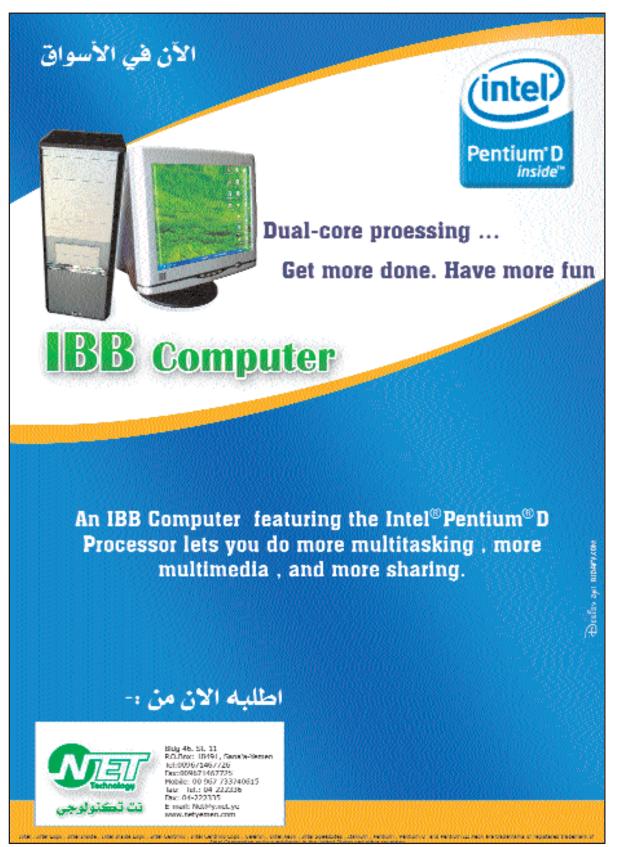
- Degree in Accounting, Finance or similar discipline and minimum of three years work experience in general accounting and administration, preferably with USAID-assisted projects and/or health or social service NGOs like Pathfinder International.
- Experience in a non-profit environment, preferably international. Good command of English language.
- Excellent organizational skills, detail oriented and high degree of accuracy; strong
- analytical skills and sound judgment. Ability to work independently and as a member of a team.

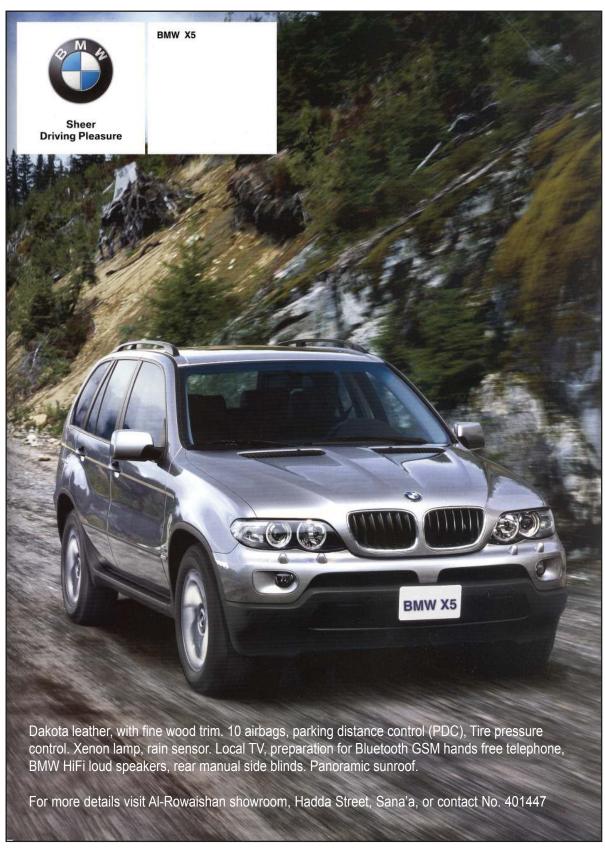
Solid computer skills in Windows, Microsoft Word and Excel Please submit your CV during 10 days from today to the address below:

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Beauty Tips	BEAUTY	commands to 6403
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Dreams	DREAMS	order send one of the commands to 6402

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- SMS monthly subscription fee is 350 YER
- MMS monthly subscription fee is 650 YER
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THE GERMAN JORDANIAN UNIVERSITY TALAL ABU GHAZALEH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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The newly established Talal Abu Ghazaleh College for Business invites students to apply to the following programs that will be launched beginning in the fall 2006 semester:

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Programs were developed by the most respected and renowned figures in academia and were designed to meet the highest international academic standards.

For information and application, contact:

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Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business
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Amman 11192, Jordan

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Where the Gifted Become Leaders

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT UNDP Office in Sana'a is Expanding.

We are seeking energetic and skilled Yemeni nationals to join our core team. Following are the positions we seek candidates for:

• Team Leader for Governance & Gender Team

become part of our middle management team and lead the implementation of our governance and gender programmes



manage UNDP's public relations through promoting the results achieved with the media and civil society

• Programme Officer – Economist

manage the poverty reduction and economic growth programmes to help Yemen address the needs of the poor and improve the status of the economy

• Programme Associate – Human Rights and Elections

manage the human rights and elections programmes to assist Yemen in improving its democratic governance and the participation of the Yemeni people in the betterment of their society

• Programme Associate - Crisis Prevention and Recovery

manage the crisis prevention and recovery programmes which will enable Yemen to better manage natural disasters and crisis

• Research and Knowledge Management Associate

manage the knowledge base of the UNDP Office and assist in research towards the development of new programmes and projects

• Project Management Assistant (2 positions)

help our Programme Teams to manage their many programmes and projects professionally, while supporting the achievement of results on schedule and on budget

There is a variety of positions and we are looking for different skills, to learn more about these positions please visit our website [www.undp.org.ye and go to Vacancies under About UNDP Yemen] for the details and find a position that fits you!

Only candidates with the specified education and years of experience as indicated in the Job Description/s will be considered. We look forward to receiving your application (only short-listed candidates will be contacted).

Deadline for receipt of applications is 30 June 2006.

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization, and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Yemeni Nationals - Exciting Career Opportunities in Oil and Gas Exploration Activities.

A rapidly expanding International Oil and Gas Company seeks the following personnel for full time employment.

Civils HSE Supervisor

The Civils HSE Supervisor will be directly responsible for implementing the Company's HSE Management System and Policies and ensuring all construction and seismic operations are conducted in full compliance with this documentation.

The position is rotational and the majority of time will be spent in the field as part of a small team comprising of the Civils Supervisor and the Community Affairs Officer.

Candidates must demonstrate previous experience in HSE supervisory positions, will possess a valid driver's licence, (at least 4 years), be physically fit, competent in written and spoken English and have good computer skills including Microsoft applications and internet/email usage.

Full camp accommodation and messing will be provided while in the field.

This position offers excellent career prospects, including training and competitive salary.

Civils Supervisor

The Civils Supervisor will report to the Drilling Superintendent and be directly responsible for ensuring that the quality of the civil work performed on Site by the Contractor and its sub-Contractors is in compliance with Contract requirements.

The civils works will principally be the building of access roads, rig locations and associated operations.

The position is rotational and the majority of time will be spent in the field as part of a small team comprising of the Civils HSE Supervisor and the Community Affairs Officer.

Candidates must demonstrate previous experience in Civils supervisory positions, will possess a valid driver's licence, (at least 4 years), be physically fit, competent in written and spoken English and have good computer skills including Microsoft applications and internet/email usage.

Full camp accommodation and messing will be provided in the field.

This position offers excellent career prospects, including training and competitive salary.

Interested candidates are requested to submit applications to the HR Manager, together with a detailed CV by facsimile to: +967 1 410 314

Deadline for Applications is Wednesday 21st June



The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP) in Sana'a is seeking assistance for the following task to be funded by German Financial Cooperation (KfW Development Bank):

Consulting Services for a Compliance Audit of the Social Marketing component (Yemeni-German Reproductive Health Programme).

For the implementation of the component, the MPHP signed an implementation contract with Marie Stopes International. Measures to be implemented by its branch in Yemen (MSIY) are among others: market assessment, procurement and distribution of contraceptives, promotional and social marketing campaigns, baseline- and evaluation studies on knowledge, attitude and preventive practice (KAP) of the target groups, etc. In order to evaluate and monitor the proper implementation (objectives and targets) of the project regular external compliance audits will be carried out through an independent company. The purpose of the compliance audit is, on behalf of the MPHP, to

- monitor, that the project is planned, managed and implemented by MSIY in strict compliance with its contractually agreed objectives, targets, implementation and management arrangements according to the laws, rules and regulations of the Republic of Yemen and the rules and regulations of German Financial Cooperation with Developing Countries;
- report to the MPHP and KfW and make recommendations as to required changes or modification in project management and implementation arrangements.

The participating companies must be qualified international audit firms with a local branch in Yemen or a regional branch in the MENA Region; for the latter a local partner should be included in the offer. Recent experience on projects of similar nature will be of advantage. The compliance auditor may subcontract certain monitoring tasks to qualified (local) companies. This is to be specified in the technical and financial offers. Tenders are invited to present their bids for the Consulting Services. Tender documents (incl. Terms of Reference and details of the evaluation process) are available at KfW Office Sana'a (Tel. 01-426351). The selection will take place under Quality and Cost-based Selection.

The final submission date is July 20th 2006 (45 days after initial publication on June 5, 2006). Proposals shall be submitted not later than July 20th, 18:00 and in two copies to KfW Development Bank, L III b/3 North Africa and Middle East, Attn.: Mr. Klaus Vöhringer, Palmengartenstrasse 5-9, 60325 Frankfurt / Germany. One additional copy of the Proposal shall be forwarded directly to MPHP.

Words of Wisdom



The Republic of Yemen cannot afford to develop on the basic of the traditional snail-pace growth rate. We need a strong force and zeal to address such grave issues as excessively high population growth rates, rapid depletion of water resources, corruption and mismanagement, etc.

> Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times



In memory of Dr. Al-Saqqaf (1952-1999)

The founder of the Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf passed away in a car accident seven years ago on the second on June. Brain Whitaker*, who had made acquaintance with him since the early days of the Yemen Times, has written a few words in his tribute.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

bdulaziz al-Saqqaf was a courageous warrior whose weapons were paper, ink and computers. As editor and publisher of the Yemen Times, he insisted on taking the country's ostensibly liberal press law at its word — and regularly suffered the conse-

Dr Saqqaf, a lecturer in economics at Sana'a University, launched his paper in 1991 during the political spring that followed Yemen's unification and first steps towards democracy.

At the time it was just one among several dozen new titles thrust optimistically upon a bemused - and 60 per cent illiterate - Yemeni public.

Largely because the Yemen Times was published in English it could get away with saying things that other papers could not, but the authorities did become apprehensive when they realised that it was being read by virtually every foreign diplomat and businessman in

In those early days Saqqaf ran the paper from a cramped upstairs office just outside the walls of the old city. The first time I met him, after listening to his views on the Yemeni economy, delivered at high speed in an American accent, I asked him for a copy of the paper.

'You'll have to pay for it,' he said seriously 'You see, I'm a capitalist.' I handed over the money — slightly less than 10p in British money.

A few years later the paper was clearly flourshing. I met Saqqaf again in his large new offices and he handed me a bundle of back issues. 'Don't you want me to pay for them?' I asked, reminding him of what he had said before.

'Ah!' he replied. 'But in those days I was a poor cap-

Harassment of the Yemen Times took many forms. In 1994, shortly after the war of secession, Saqqaf was briefly imprisoned without charge and the paper's computers were seized.

Another time, the paper's landlord became nervous and decided to throw them out. One day when Saqqaf was out of town, the landlord invited the entire staff to lunch at the Sheraton hotel and, while they were eating, changed the locks on their offices.

Co-opting critics of the government is an old Yemeni tactic, and in 1997 Saqqaf was appointed to the upper house of parliament, the Consultative Council. Frustrated at its ineffectiveness, he resigned a few months later, accusing the President of using the council 'as a dumping ground for individuals he wants to appease, but whom he doesn't care to keep on active duty elsewhere.' He was, however, persuaded to return.

Journalism in Yemen, as in other emerging democracies, can be a dangerous profession. There was always something in Saqqaf's boldness and, indeed, his bravery, that pointed towards a tragic end.

On June 2, 1999, he had lunch at a restaurant with a number of people, including Mohammed al-Tayyeb, the Minister of Labour, and Dr Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, a member of Consultative Council. While crossing the Haddah Road on the way back he was hit by a car and died shortly afterwards.

Brian Whitaker joined the Guardian in 1987 and has been Middle East editor since May 2000. While working for the paper he took a part-time degree in Arabic at Westminster University. He also has his own website devoted to Arab culture and politics: al-bab.com. brianwhitaker@guardian.co.uk

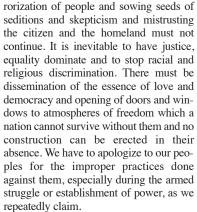
Questions & answers on the Arabs' reality (2-3)

The first part of this article reviewed some of the matters affecting Arab reality and answers the writer thought could provide solutions. In the second part of this three-part series, he touches upon grievances that should be rejected and other significant questions.

By: Prof. Abdulaziz

Al-Tarb

of grievances that should be rejected is the violation of human rights. The human rights violation practices are no longer acceptable to continue at the time we are living beginnings of the twenty-first century in the world of globalization and open boundaries. Injustice, torture and imprisoning people for their opinion, ter-



What are the ways of creating rapprochement between peoples and their rulers? The answer is by realization of the aspired for goal embodied in justice, freedom, democracy and equality so that to

he writer says that the primary later proceed to practical application through ensurance of actual

participation of all in taking the decision and drawing up the general policy. Then, we bear the full responsibility. There would be no freedom without free people, no democracy without democrats and no institutions without men of the state who shoulder the responsibility and defend the right and prove their aptitude in any position they assume. It is

no longer acceptable to monopolize power and control destinies of the people: their present and future and the destiny of their sons. The realm or era of the one unique individual, who takes the decision of war and peace and acts freely with the nation's wealth without any accountability, has to

The most significant reason for uniting the nation is the destiny. It is the destiny of all the states and peoples and individuals. If the Arab ship sinks, none would survive neither a ruler or a governed everywhere in the Arab homeland. Otherwise, when the ship is saved and reaches the shore safely, all would enjoy safety and optimism prevails. We are confronted with a hard ordeal of Iraq, Palestine and Iran, either to be or not to be. That is our contemporary question and issue that we must not escape from facing. As for optimism it is destined by God's ordain, the inevitability of history and the lessons from our ages of renascence that we implore God to be repeated in our days.

With regard to the nation's economy and poverty issues the cure is difficult and takes a long time because the legacy is very heavy, accumulation is heaped up and solutions are lacking. Is it possible to start from the present situation? The surpluses of oil prices and how to invest them in works of development and modernization in capitals and to give what could be possible to others on condition they would be used for implementation of plans and projects of development and construction is another question to ponder.

Decision makers have committed many mistakes and sins against their nations such as squandering and plundering and corruption. In addition they have perpetrated unreasonable experiments as well as bribes and embezzlements. Therefore, if we wanted to start with an initial step there must be a putting an end to corruption and corrupts. After that solutions could come successively to rectify the crooked situation and reform the march. If the Islamic law had been implemented literally and soundly in this regard there would not have been poverty, not only by avoiding corruption but also by justly distributing the money of Zakat (charity tax) and every human would have borne his responsibility in this regard.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor of Political Science. He is the head of a number of professional associations, such as the Arab Group for Investment and Development.

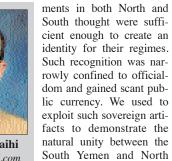
No more North and South

recall at London's Heathrow airport, capital of the former empire where the sun never set. Part of this Britannic empire's domains were the southern area of modern Yemen. Though my passport details were translated into their own By: Yahia Al-Jubaihi mother tongue, the officials

at the airport would ask me whether I was from the North or the South. The same question would be repeated in Paris' major airport, Charles de Gaulle. The immigration official would run through my passport several times and then query me: "Are you from

Aden or Sana'a?' The same arrogance, save the accent, would be repeated at John F. Kennedy's airport in New York. As the Americans tend to be a bit more intrusive, they would additionally ask if I knew any one in the South. In Toronto's Pearson airport, the same question would be repeated though in a different same manner. My experiences are not unique, and many Yemenis have dealt with similar hindrances when visiting Western countries where they have experiences with slight differences in immigration offices' dealing with the passports of Aden and Sana'a. Moreover, the same problem would occur in the Eastern Bloc coun-

For people like me, such embarrassing questions were not confined to foreign countries only. It was also common in some Arab countries though the problems took different forms. Additionally, it was not uncommon to encounter dissimilar treatment based on the type of the passport one held, though this did not happen in foreign, non-Arab, countries. Passports were the political expression of separation between the South and the North before 22 May 1990, which the govern-



Yemen. People who examined our passports tended to accept the official status of our passports rather than our explanations. The official perspective seemed stronger than the natural state of

This was our situation before 22 May 1990. It was only a model. As only truth persists, the official stance corresponded with the public's will and the two sides united. Since May 22, people like me were no longer compelled to explain our citizenship to immigration officials around the world as the question itself ceased to be asked because of the new Yemeni passports. This new passport held the same content typical of all passports and differed from the former North and South passports in a nominal way only. It differed from the previous Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen passports in that only one official for signed it for those born in Aden or Sana'a, whereas two officials would have previously signed them.

As power means the power of unity rather than that of materials, and as power in today's world recognizes nothing else than strength in unity, I felt a difference in treatment at airports following unification. Thereafter, I expected the American to bow for me in respect, the Brit to tip his hat, the Frenchmen to wave his hand in welcome, and the Canadian to smile in satisfaction. Also, I expected others to

apologize in spite of themselves. May 22 is the day of change for every

despite some sour grapes and mistaken understandings. Such differences in interpretations have shown themselves to be crucial as the South's attempt to break away from the union showed in 1994. However, the attempt allowed the union to gain in strength and stabilization. Present-day gripes such as the cancer of corruption and deteriorating economic circumstances are not attributed to unification, though they could be attributed to some persons involved in the achievement of unity. These detractors have failed to realize the importance of unification to the country and the region. Yemeni unification enhanced stability and security in the region. It contributed to the termination of many expected conflicts that had been the result of lack of trust between the two Yemens. Moreover, had it not been for unification, border demarcation with Oman and Saudi Arabia would not have been possible following some sixty years of dispute. Yemeni unification created the necessary political space to enable the borders to be demarcated. What would have happened if the borders had not been demarcated before 9/11? The answer is anyone's guess.

We mark the sixteenth anniversary of re-unification, despite all the nuisances and birth pangs associated with it as a sign of progress. Negative outcomes of unification can be considered as momentary because they are specific to individuals who will eventually leave the political stage. Not all of the deficits in development will affect the greatness of unification. Every Yemeni who now is ignorant of the meaning of South and North is a product of the achievement. Since May 22, each Yemeni chants whether it is overtly, silently, in pleasure or misery, in poverty, in sickness or good health, they repeat no more South and North.

Yahia Al-Jubaihi is Head of Media department at the Ministerial Cabinet



COMMONSENSE By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Carnage in Iraq and elsewhere:

Mind-boggling sadism

he days go by and the counting is difficult to keep up with: "45 corpses found around the streets of Baghdad"; "10 heads severed found off the road leading to Bakuba"; "Scores killed as the Israeli Defense Forces unleash their rockets of death upon residential areas in Gaza and the West Bank". 40 die as Americans attack a suspected gathering of Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters in a mosque (most of the casualties were innocent civilians)". These are just parts of some of the daily reports emanating from blood stained Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan. Yet, no one can come up with an explanation to satisfy the curious questioner as to how and why all this senseless disdain for human life is allowed to flourish. We do not even have any clue as to who are the perpetrators and what is their goal from all this madness. This carnage, while mostly inflicted on mostly innocent Iraqis, Afghanis and Palestinians knows no national identities.

Even elements of the diplomatic community are not spared the immunity from the hapless fate of death that could hit upon anyone walking the streets of Baghdad or even driving on armored vehicles. Death has been stamped on the entire map of Iraq thanks to a senseless invasion supposedly deemed to bring back the aura of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. What happiness is there, when you sleep at night not knowing whether you will wake up the next day to enjoy perhaps one more measly breakfast of dates and milk because you are unemployed and can't afford to buy a pack of cornflakes that the invaders brought along with them? Death in Iraq can come in any random way: American bombers supposedly cleaning up suspected terrorist outposts in the middle of nowhere. Oops, it turned out to be an innocent wedding which ended with 24 helpless innocent men, women and children, who may not even have had a chance to have their last supper. All in the name of Jesus was this war brought upon Iraq. Yet, any man of faith knows well that Jesus would never have any part of this kind of crazy fanaticism that has entered the White House. No, Jesus is much kinder than to let his name be smeared with the blood unleashed by any fanatics, Jews, Gentile, or Moslem. Yet all these spiritual inclinations are savoring in the bloodshed we see being unleashed in Iraq and elsewhere in the region (And now Somalia has entered the bloodletting) and for what cause? Nobody really knows now. Oh sure, in Iraq, Saddam is out of the way, but we are being led to believe that his only crime was to have those who tried to kill him executed. We know Saddam did more than that, but all those other crimes are with the complicity of the very forces that are now supposedly bringing justice to Iraq.

Justice in Iraq! Where did that come from? The death count is approaching five hundred per week and the entire world is led to believe now that there was more justice in the days of Saddam than we are seeing under the stars and stripes that have turned the Tigris-Euphrates valleys into rivers of blood and untreated sewage, thanks to the destroyed infrastructure by the forces that unfurled the stars and stripes all over the Fertile Crescent.

How can life in Iraq be assumed to have been made better thanks to the American invasion, when the facts of life have been turned into only facts of death? Death by "collateral damage"; death by roadside bombs, death by snipers, death by sectarian strife, death by blown up cars, ... the list is endless, but the result is all the same: death - the end of peace, the end of tranquility and the end of life. That is how it is in Iraq, that is how it is in Afghanistan and that is how it is in Palestine, where death has been a way of life for the Palestinians for eighty years. It seems that natural death has been taken out of the obituary pages of the newspapers of these helpless lands. But, the American President and his cronies think that they can sleep more securely now, because death has been moved away to the gentle hills of Mesopotamia, Gaza and Afghanistan. In America and Israel, the pursuit of happiness goes on undisturbed, while the legions of death unleashed by these two monstrous evil powers carry on with their disgusting pleasures.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

Letters to the Editor

Nightly Rains Add to Misery of Earthquake Survivors Nightly rains since Saturday's earthquake in Indonesia have added to the despair of the countless injured and homeless residents of the affected region. According to the United Nations, more than 40% of the injured and homeless are children.

With the death toll surpassing 6,000 and over 647,000 people being displaced as a result of the disaster, survivors are desperate for any shelter, food aid, and medical treatment they can receive.

Islamic Relief has mobilized 400 family-sized tents from Pakistan to provide shelter to victims living in the open. Islamic

Relief's millions of dollars of aid contributions include a shipment of a 747 cargo plane carrying over 200,000 pounds of much-needed first aid kits, medical equipment, and hygiene kits, among other

> Islamic Relief USA info@irw.org

Qat!

know that most of you do chew **L**qat, but please pass it on to the wide audiences of the Newspaper. I saw this story on BBC News Online and thought you should Here is the link:

Heart warning on African herb

Doctors warn about heart problems associated with chewing qat, after a young man suffered a heart attack. http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/health/5021210.stm

Hassan Sheikh abdi815@yahoo.com

YEMEN TIMES

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As-Sahwa 1 June 2006.

- JMP leadership meets the European Parliament
- Sheik al-Ahmar: The president is not bound by any pressure regarding his nomination
- American attorney discloses about suffering of 500 prisoners in Colorado prison, including al-Mouayad and Zaed
- Following much controversy about it, The president orders withdrawal of the free zone agreement with Dubai
- Delegation of parliamentarians against corruption back in Sana'a
- Al-Mukalla welcomes the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council on its
- Motorcyclists set fire to three motorcycles in protest to the authority treat-

Writer Zaid al-Shami writes saying the political system in Yemen is based on political pluralism and the people are the owner and source of power. The public service or funds are not the right of anyone to be used in interest of any political party or organization. All the citizens are equal in rights and general duties and the constitution bans using the armed forces and police in favor of any party or individual or a group. Those have been excerpts from the constitution that gives the citizens and political parties the right to competition for power (local, parliamentary and presidential). Elections are not considered fair and right but through competition among more than one candi-

Preparations have begun for the local and presidential elections and the political parties have demonstrated the broad lines of their platforms. The General People's Congress (GPC) call to keep things as they were especially after it has been able to control all powers and no longer needs to listen to the other, let alone permitting partnership or changing the peaceful transfer of power into a fact.

As for the JMP it has submitted a project for tackling the failures and called for effecting a balance between the authority and the responsibilities. The constitution has given large authorizes to the president of the republic without pinpointing specific responsibilities. When the president became himself the leader of the ruling party the citizen has been left without a reference to complain to and present his grievance or demands for his rights. The only way for preserving ones rights was then to join the GPC. The insistence on changing the elections to a ring for wrestling is an apparent attempt to prevent the JMP from going ahead in the competition for the local and presidential



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist

Organization, 30 May 2006.

Main headlines

- Dubai agreement on operating the free zone in Aden abolished
- Three persons killed, soldier wound-
- ed in Rima and Nahm Unrestrained security in Hadramout governorate
- Security authorities launch largescale arrest campaign, Child Utbah's dead body found in a cave
- 23 al-Qaeda affiliate suspects stand
- JMP: Elections Commission deals with political parties in compliance with partisan directives
- NDI: Much substitution in members of committees affected credibility of the process of voter register

Writer Ahmed Saeed says the next days with the approach of elections we will listen more and more about cases of relaxation and values of tolerance from president Ali Abdullah Saleh, some of which would led to closure of past files against political personalities and forces.

As citizens and members of political parties we have to praise that because it bears a great amount of courage as much as respect of national and human rights. Those would end what have remained of conflict spots and political trenching and draw the curtain on agonies and suffering of the past. It would open a new chapter for a new life looking forward to prosper-

I presume that pardon is a right for every person as long as he did not perpetrate a crime against the homeland and his condemnation was under charges of certain political characteristic at a certain political stage governed by its causes and circumstances.

Then political system in our country

has taken large steps in this regard in settling issues and ending conditions of congestion. Therefore, the system realizes the importance of closing such thorny files, the latest of which the pardon in favor of the two scholars al-Dailami and Muftah.



Al-Nidaa weekly, 31 May 2006.

Main headlines

- Ruling party announces its candidate by the end of June, JMP's choices
- MPs question the interior minister on violations against press
- Consumer Protection Society: Absence of law and accountability, behind smuggling dangerous poultry fodder concentrates
- Al-A'nisi begins fighting corruption with attacks on the opposition
- Press and government in a fresh confrontation with secret apparatuses
- Three-year imprisonment for illegal

Writer Mohammed al-Ghubari says the authority that has complained of stands of the journalists syndicate and held it responsible for the decision of dropping Yemen from the list of the countries nominated for benefiting from the American Millennium Fund had earlier said it was ready to implement the international demands, mainly that related to disclosure of those involved in the events of attacks and threats to journalists and to send them to court and also to legislate the new law of press.

For a month or more there have appeared indicators on settlement of the crisis between the journalists defending themselves and the government, not just because it is involved in those events but also for its responsibility for the security of its citizens. Nevertheless the realities have revealed that there are parties in possession of the decision and do not want the situations to settle and stabilize.

A few days after the meeting between the prime minister and leadership of the journalists syndicate the newspapers considered as organs of the authority continued their campaign of accusations against some journalists. A few weeks later other journalists were exposed to questioning and detention at Sana'a airport. The important thing is that during and after the relaxation in the relationship between head of the government and the ministry

of interior on the one hand and the journalists syndicate on the other, we have become more convinced that however good the intentions of those parties were, they don not possess the running of the affair but were intended to be the façade of bad practices, ordered and managed by other than them.



Ash-Shumou weekly, 27 May 2006.

Main headlines

- Washington's embassy gives guarantees to a presidential candidate fro the
- Head of the Nasserite Organization political office submits the option of JMP boycotting the elections
- GPC's resentment forces al-Barakani to back down from his statements and sources at the party's general secretariat disclose intention of freezing his membership

Dr Mohammed Yahya al-Saeedi says in an article years ago all the poor countries were suffering from the western colonialism that plundered their natural wealth. Presently the averages of plundering increased via the foreign companies and the international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. Yemen is in need of real investments and partnership to implement development in various aspects of life but not for masters professional in plundering, sabotage, destruction and exploiting the general atmosphere, poverty and backwardness to spread corrupt practices. What has Yemen benefited from the American Hunt company and other foreign companies especially under non-existence of free administration and supervision? Hunt was behaving as being above the law and without accountability. In most cases it was challenging the state by imposing its mistaken practices against the homeland and its employees in addition to stealing and misbehavior with the oil wealth. It has exceeded that by filing a lawsuit against the state, demanding financial compensations for not renewing its agreement despite of the signing of the former oil minister and approval of the cabinet. In this way we know to extent the power and influence of these foreign companies on local decision-making and exploitation of corruption in favor of the company.

S K Ε T C Н By: Samer

Reconciliation's new frontier

By: Dominique Moisi

n France, May 10 is a day to commemorate the abolition of slavery. January 27 is the day we remember the Holocaust, through the commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz. In a few days, there will be ceremonies to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the revision of Captain Alfred Dreyfus's conviction on charges of espionage in a trial that tore the country apart.

France in particular, but also Europe in general, seems to be in a mood for remembering and repenting. It all looks as if the need to integrate communities within nations, to reconcile them with their past in order to unite them around a common identity and therefore a common project for the future, has replaced Europe's now-completed mission of reconciling old enemies like Germany and France.

For decades, "reconciliation" and its most remarkable achievement the Franco-German rapprochement – was the trademark of the project to create an ever closer union in Europe. Reconciliation may seem far off for, say, the peoples of Japan, China, and South Korea, but it is taken for granted by today's Europeans.

Except for the Balkans, most European nations are at peace with each other. The genes of war now express themselves on the soccer field; competition for land has been replaced by competition for medals and titles. The first Franco-German history book was released recently. and, according to its team of writers, it was not the past and the Nazi years that constitute a source of contention between French and German historians, but the present and in particular relations with the United States.

So, if the mission of reconciliation has any life left, its focus has shifted. If European nation-states are reconciled with each other, they are not yet fully reconciled with themselves, with their dark or grey spots, and in particular their treatment of minori-

Historians of Europe will probably one day conclude that it is the Holocaust and Europe's relations with its Jews that paved the way for the opening of this process of repentance. In the words of the Polish historian and statesman Bronislaw Geremek, the liberation of Auschwitz on January 27, 1945, has to be seen as one of the founding moments of today's Europe. The silence that surrounded Holocaust survivors during the immediate postwar reconstruction of Europe has been replaced by gestures of contrition and reparation.

Responsibility for passivity as well as active crimes has been recognized. Pious lies have been uncovered. In France half a century ago, as the Cold War loomed, Charles de Gaulle easily convinced the French that they were heroic during World War II because

he was heroic. Francois Mitterrand, by contrast, managed to assure the French only that they were not so bad, because he, Mitterrand, had served in the collaborationist Vichy regime of Marshal Pétain before joining the resistance.

In the eyes of historians, President Jacques Chirac's redeeming value will most probably remain his courageous attempt to reconcile France's wounded minorities with their past and the French nation through a national process of repentance. It started with the Jews and acknowledgement that the Vichy regime did indeed incarnate the French state. Thus "France" itself was an accomplice to the crimes of the Nazi regime.

Today, France's black minority is trying to organize itself along the lines of the Jewish minority. It has created a central authority serving as an umbrella for diverse organizations. And it has concluded that centuries of slavery amount to the equivalent of the Holocaust. European recognition of crimes against the Jews, they argue, must be followed by an admission of guilt towards the Continent's black minorities.

It is likely that the violence that erupted in the fall of 2005 in many French cities and suburbs, in which young and unemployed black people played a large part, has accelerated the willingness of French officials to come to terms with this historical legacy. To face the challenge of integration, France must face its past. But it must also behave in a modern, rather than a neo-colonial, way in many places in its former African empire.

If reconciliation with the past is vital to building a harmonious future, France has much to do concerning another minority for whom history seems to remain largely frozen. It is with the French of Algerian descent, not to mention Algeria itself, that reconciliation seems most difficult to achieve. It will take more than a few role models, such as Zinedine Zidane, France's greatest soccer star, to appease the frustrations and to curb the resentments.

But is acknowledging past guilt only a way to facilitate the integration of minorities? Or is it also part of a process of closing the doors of our European "paradise" to all those who still want to join us? Reconciliation between nations is probably easier than reconciliation within nations. This is the challenge facing much of the democratic world today, not only in France and Europe at large, but also in the US.

Dominique Moisi, a founder and Senior Advisor at Ifri (French Institute for International Relations), is currently a Professor at the College of Europe in Natolin, Warsaw.

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The domestic wars of Hosni Mubarak

By: Saad Eddin Ibrahim

The decision by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's government to try two senior judges for blowing the whistle on vote rigging in last autumn's parliamentary elections has rocked the country. Massive crowds have gathered to support the judges and have caught Mubarak's regime completely unaware.

Mubarak's government now seems to be backtracking as fast as it can. Judge Mahmoud Mekki has been acquitted, and Judge Hisham al-Bastawisy, who suffered a heart attack the night before, has merely been reprimanded. Yet Cairo remains restless, and the government fears another outpouring of support for democracy, as the judges have called for renewed nationwide demonstrations

Egyptian judges have a long-standing tradition of discretion and propriety. But they feel abused by government efforts to sugarcoat the manipulation of election after election by claiming that judges supervise the voting. What makes their struggle loom so large for a normally quiescent Egyptian public is partly that nearly all 9,000 judges are standing fast in solidarity. Their representative body, the Judges' Club, has long pushed for a new law to restore judicial independence. Now the judges are insisting on their independence by themselves.

The Mubarak regime is adamantly opposed, and resorts to extra-judicial means, such as emergency courts and national security and military courts, which do not observe international heart of Cairo. This deployment, last-homeland. standards. Contrary to his campaign ing three weeks so far, is already promises during his run for a fifth term as President, Mubarak has requested (and his rubber-stamp parliament has granted) a two-year extension of the Emergency Law by which Egypt has been ruled throughout his presidency.

It is to this law, above all, that the judges and Egypt's civil society object. The Emergency Law has been in force since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in October 1981, and Mubarak claims that he needs another extension to combat terrorism. But, according to a recent human rights report, despite the Emergency Law, 89 people were killed and 236 wounded in terrorist attacks in Egypt during the previous 12 months. In neighboring Israel, which is still in a struggle with the Palestinians, only 18 were killed and 25 wounded in similar attacks during the same period. Yet Israelis do not live under an emergency law.

Consider, moreover, that at the height of the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1973, Egypt's armed forces stood at one million troops. Now only 350,000 serve in the military, while the internal security police recently hit the one-million mark.

Mubarak's first internal war was with Islamic militants during his early years in power, but he now finds himself caught in three more domestic wars. The battle with the judges has incited enough popular unrest to warrant Mubarak's deployment of thousands of black-uniformed central security forces in the

longer than the combined duration of the last two wars with Israel.

Another domestic war, with the Egyptian Bedouins of Sinai, broke out two years ago. Taking their cue from their Palestinian neighbors, if not from al-Qaeda, alienated young Bedouins apparently decided to rebel against their treatment as third-class citizens. All around them, but especially in the ebullient resorts of southern Sinai, billions are spent on roads, airports, and beaches; sizeable parcels of land are allocated generously to rich Egyptians from the Nile Valley and to foreigners, but not to Sinai natives.

Indeed, Sinai Bedouins have the right of use but not ownership of land, because a lethargic, occasionally corrupt bureaucracy still deems the Sinai a military zone and its natives' loyalty questionable. Two years ago, on the anniversary of the war of October 1973, young Sinai militants bombed the Taba Hilton. Last July, on another national holiday, they hit three tourist spots not far from the Mubarak family compound in Sharm el-Sheikh. These symbolic as well as lethal warnings to a family that has grown Pharaonic in scale, style, and power have gone unheeded.

The third recent domestic war, this one over Christian Coptic citizenship rights, has been brewing for years. Copts are the original Egyptians, and they were the majority population until the tenth century. As Egypt was Arabized and Islamized, the Copts became a minority in their original

In Mubarak's Egypt, citizens' legal equality, while stipulated in the constitution, is not respected or observed, especially with regard to the construction and protection of Coptic churches. Last November, when Muslim zealots attacked a Coptic church in Alexandria, several Copts were injured. Six months later. a fanatic targeted three churches during Sunday services, killing a few worshippers and injuring many. Copts marched in the streets of Alexandria for the next three days, protesting the security authorities' leniency toward the culprits, the scapegoating of their community, or even an official hand in the attacks to justify an extension of the Emergency

Hosni Mubaraks' four domestic wars are fuelled by Egypt's excluded, who are increasingly in rebellion against a regime that has long outlived its legitimate mandate. The battle with the judges may well prove to be Mubarak's Achilles' heel. Justice is a central value for Egyptians, and its absence is at the core of all protests. There can be no evidence more compelling than the unprecedented numbers of people who have rallied peacefully in solidarity with the judges.

Saad Eddin Ibrahim is Professor of Political Sociology at the American University in Cairo and Chairman of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies.

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Environmental ignorance reaches crisis proportions

By: Amel Al-Ariqi amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

eggary, qat, and electricity" were quick answers from various citizens asked the question, "In your opinion, what's the main environmental crisis Yemen is experiencing?" Others requested further explanation of the question, while some said they needed more time to determine an answer to the question. These unexpected attitudes and answers reflect Yemenis' environmental knowledge. with some citizens themselves confessing that they do not pay much attention to environmental issues.

Those responding immediately to the question did not give just one answer. Most agreed that Yemen is experiencing many environmental crises, to the extent that they couldn't give just one answer. However, they also insisted that public ignorance of how to deal with such issues aggravates the problems.

Environmental crises

Journalist Ismail Al-Ghabiri believes pollution due to vehicle exhausts and absence of sanitation services are Yemen's main environmental problems. "Many cities are experiencing these problems. We really need a rapid move to solve this problem, which has become the main reason for the spread of many diseases in these cities," he

Printing establishment employee Ameen Mohammed Al-Kaml agreed that pollution due to vehicle exhausts is Yemen's main problem. "Those who use diesel in vehicle engines don't care about air pollution their vehicles cause and unfortunately, the law preventing diesel use in car engines has not been applied yet," he said. "The absence of any plan or measures to regulate the waste dispos-



Trash and notebooks litter Yemen's public areas.

Student collects garbage in a cleaning compaign.

al process in many regions is another environmental crisis in Yemen," he

Like her classmates, high school student Yusra Ahmed insisted that solid waste and garbage on the streets is the real environmental problem. "Although cleaners always make efforts to clean the street, people still throw garbage and papers because there are no containers for this purpose," she explained.

Computer graphic designer Ramzy Al-Saqqaf considers groundwater pollution either by chemical waste or wastewater, as well as absence of green spaces in main cities, Yemen's major environmental problems. Whereas manager Qaid Alrdfani believes overfishing is a "very serious environmental problem in Yemen, as our economy is based on the fishing sector."

Housewife Umm Ahmed believes Yemen's main environmental problem is overusing herbicides in spraying fruits and vegetables, as well as qat. "The problem lies in the fact that many farmers use such herbicides randomly and extremely. These herbicides are the main reason for the spread of cancers in Yemen," she stat-

Journalist Yasser Al-Mayasi referred to the same point, adding, "I believe any environmental problem can be solved later, but this problem must be solved as soon as possible. It's a big issue that we eat fruits and vegetables contaminated with cancercausing toxins."

Environmental expert Khalid Harun stated that Yemen suffers many environmental problems. "However, if we consider each issue's importance, we'll find that the water reduction crisis is the most important environmental issue in Yemen." He confirmed that Yemen's water resources are very poor, making water reduction an extraordinary issue requiring more attention.

Rules and ignorance

Pollution, water reduction and herbicide overuse undoubtedly are environmental problems in many nations. However, such problems become a serious crisis in Yemen, where there are many rules and regulations supposedly preventing any attitude that damages the environment. For example, there is a law preventing using diesel in cars, as well as many regulations regarding the process of digging wells for water. The environmental situation raises questions about such rules' efficiency.

Fadhal Al-Amdi pointed out that many citizens don't follow such rules because "they behave carelessly and selfishly." He called for powerful authorities to force citizens to follow the rules. "For example, in Malaysia, there are fines against those who break the law and throw garbage on the street.'

Al-Amdi also blames local mass media "which failed to attract Yemeni citizens' attention and educate them regarding environmental issues."

However, Al-Saqqaf said some purposefully intend to break the rules. 'Although there is a law preventing smoking in vehicles, many times I will find a smoker on the bus. I feel ashamed if I ask him to stop smoking, as if I'm the one who broke the rule," he said.

Secretary Abeer Al-Shami mentioned that most Yemenis have little environmental knowledge or education. "They mostly have no idea about the consequences of their negative behavior toward the environment."

She also blamed involved environmental authorities, which have not provided citizens facilities or abilities enabling them to follow the rules. "For example, there are no waste containers or wastebaskets in many neighborhoods, so citizens throw garbage on the pavements," she

Harun acknowledged the public's

inadequate environmental knowledge. "Involved authorities should handle this matter. If there's no public awareness concerning environmental issues, it'll reflect negatively in citizens' behavior and attitudes toward the environment."

Harun indicated that raising environmental knowledge is not a priority for many environmental officials or involved authorities. "Such environmental establishments mostly lack financial abilities to launch awareness campaigns or activities."

Lack of knowledge is the main problem

Many environmental experts and organizations realize the importance of raising public awareness and therefore hold various activities in an attempt to enhance community participation in environmental issues.

For example, on Water Day, the Ministry of Water and Environment along with various NGOs arranged activities such as a drawing competition among school students, a children's puppet show, plays and sketches performed onstage.

Today and on the occasion of June 5 International Environment Day, the Ministry of Water and Environment and the German Embassy, with the association of many local establishments, join forces in organizing a cleaning campaign at Hammam Damt.

However, such activities still are held only occasionally; therefore, their impacts are only temporary. Yemeni citizens need to be more in touch with environmental issues. They need to know more about the consequences of their attitudes toward their environment and how intentional or unintentional ignorance of any environmental problem in the present means facing environmental crises in

USAID funds rehab of Thula's cisterns

Special to the Yemen Times

ike many Yemeni mountain villages, Amran governorate's historic town of Thula collects rainwater in cisterns for domestic consumption, which allows the community to make the best use of scarce water resources. However, rainwater can become contaminated as it flows through collection channels into the cistern. Also, water stored in open cisterns can become spoiled from animal waste, trash; and dirt from clothing, shoes, hands, and buckets as women and children collect water.

Drinking contaminated water can cause various diseases, such as diarrhea, giardiasis and typhoid fever. Coming into direct contact with such water while collecting or swimming in it can cause skin rashes and possible skin infections.

To help improve and protect the health



the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is of those living in the Thula community, sponsoring rehabilitation of Jaadan

Cistern, the town's main cistern. The "new" cistern has a traditional filter system and five hand-pumps enabling users



to fetch water easily.

The cistern renovation plan carefully considered the town's historical and cul-

tural importance, by using mainly natural stone materials and the traditional "qadad" plastering method. The contractor selected for the project has a long family tradition of using qadad and is an expert in the special techniques required for its proper application.

The cistern renovation is part of a series of community-based environmental health interventions funded through USAID's Partners for Health Reform project. USAID's environmental health program components were designed via consultations and focus groups conducted with community and local council members in Thula district. Additionally, the project surveyed 269 households in 12 villages to determine local knowledge and practices related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

A locally elected project oversight committee composed of five men and five women will work with the local council to raise community members' awareness, including children, about their role in keeping the cistern clean and assuring its maintenance.

Stressed out? Here's what to do

By: Dr. Maha Al-Nakkash

emember the last time you felt overwhelmed by stress? You may have noticed that your heart rate pounded a little faster than usual. Your palms began to sweat. Your muscles tightened. Inside, you felt that many of your bodily functions also were affected: digestion slowed, adrenaline and other hormones were pumped into the bloodstream and blood pressure rose. In fact, everyone experiences stress at various times in life.

Don't let stress make you sick. If you're a woman, you tend to carry a higher burden of stress, especially if you have many roles - spouse, mother, caregiver, friend and/or worker and often you're unaware of your stress levels.

It's hard to stay calm and relax in our hectic lives. It seems almost impossible to find ways to de-stress; however, it's important to find those ways, as our health depends on it.

First, you must learn to recognize

stress by listening to your body so that you know when stress is affecting vour health. Stress can take on many different forms and can contribute to symptoms of illness. Common symptoms include: headache, sleep disorders, difficulty concentrating, shorttemperedness, upset stomach, job dissatisfaction, low morale, depression, anxiety, exhaustion, frequent frustration, change in appetite, sleeplessness and oversleeping. Simple ways to de-stress and relax

For many reasons, certain individuals may be at risk of vitamin, mineral and/or amino acid deficiencies. These include those in stressful situations: the elderly, children, adolescents, post-menopausal women, those suffering illness and/or in the recovery process, those following restricted diets, smokers and frequent alcoholic beverage drinkers, vegetarians, those who don't get enough sunshine and those who don't have time to eat a balanced diet.

Create an atmosphere that induces calmness throughout your home:

• Tranquil sounds. Your favorite music, sound machines and waterfalls can help you relax and unwind. Sounds have the ability to alter our perceptions and instantly change our

• Living plants. Live plants create a peaceful atmosphere. They improve the ambiance and air quality of indoor environments and induce positive energy around them.

• Soft lighting. Soft and adjustable lighting can create a soothing atmosphere. Look for light bulbs that are bright, but not harsh. Being able to adjust the brightness of your lighting will give you more control of your space's mood.

· Pleasant smells A fresh and pleasant odor can transport you to a peaceful place and time. Open a window to get an exchange of air or use air purifiers or deodorizers to create the scent you find most pleasing.

• Comfortable textures. Use pillows, throws and soft materials to create a comfort zone. Our sense of touch has a powerful impact upon our feel-

Make time for yourself. It's important to care for yourself. Think of this as an order from your doctor, so you don't feel guilty! No matter how busy you are, try setting aside at least 15 minutes in your schedule each day to do something for yourself, like taking a bubble bath or going for a walk.

Sleep. Sleeping is a great way to help both body and mind. Your stress could get worse if you don't get enough sleep. Also, you can't fight off sickness as well when you sleep poorly. When you sleep enough, you can tackle problems better and lower the risk of illness. Try to get seven to nine hours of sleep every night.

Eat right. Focus on fruits, vegetables and proteins. Eat whole grains, such as wheat breads and wheat crackers, and limit caffeine. Don't deal with stress in unhealthy ways. This includes drinking too much alcohol, using drugs, smoking or overeating.

Take nutritional supplements. Eating what we think is a "perfect" diet sometimes can't give us enough key nutrients. Taking supplements is necessary to ensure adequate amounts in your system and cover any deficiencies.

Get moving. Believe it or not, physical activity not only helps relieve tense muscles, but works off stress and helps mood too. The body produces certain chemicals called endorphins before and after working out, which relieve stress and improve mood.

Talk to friends. Talk to friends to help work through stress. Friends are good listeners. Finding someone who'll let you talk freely about your problems and feelings without judging you does a world of good. It also helps to hear a different point of view. Friends will remind you that you are not alone.

Write down your thoughts. Have you ever typed an email to a friend about your lousy day and felt better afterward? Why not grab a pen and paper and write down what's going on in your life? Keeping a journal can be a great way to get things off your chest and work through issues. Later, you can go back and read through your journal and see how you've made

Relax. It's important to unwind in your own way. Some ways include deep breathing, yoga, meditation and massage therapy. If you can't do these things, take a few minutes to just sit or listen to soothing music.

Yoga exercises hold postures that work the body's muscles and breathing mechanism. Meditation often is integrated into the series of poses or exercises as a way to further quiet the mind and the body.

Massage therapy is controlled touching of the body that reduces stress, relaxes muscles and makes a person feel good. It also improves cirrelieves congestion, culation. strengthens muscle tissue and realigns weak muscle fibers.

The following is a simple breathing exercise you can do at home, in the office or practically anywhere. Deep breathing is a good way to relax. Try it a couple of times every day. Here's how to do it:

Lie down or sit in a chair, resting your hands on your stomach. Inhale through your nose, slowly counting to four. Feel your stomach rise. Hold it for a second and then slowly exhale through your mouth while counting to four. To control how fast you exhale, purse your lips like you're going to whistle and your stomach slowly will fall. Repeat five to 10 times.











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Qadi Isma'il Al-Akwa' looks back at his life

The Yemen Times is publishing excerpts from a 2004 interview with Qadi (Judge) Isma'il Ali Al-Akwa'. In this interesting interview, Judge Al-Akwa' recalls different stages of his pre- and post-revolution life, shedding light on his cultural contributions.

By: Kamal Ali Al-Hijri and Gregory D. Johnson

adi Isma'il Al-Akwa' is a prominent figure on the Yemeni scholarship stage, best known for his writings on traditional institutions in Yemeni landscape, history and culture.

His diverse interests can be gauged by a few titles: two volumes of Yemeni Proverbs (Al-Amthal Al-Yamaniyyah, 1968/1984, Beirut) and the five volumes of Refuges and Strongholds of Knowledge in Yemen (Hijar Al-'ilm wa Ma'aqil-hu fi Al-Yaman, xxx). He also has published articles on subjects as diverse as the baths of Sana'a and Turkish words adopted into Yemeni usage.

Al-Akwa' is well-known to a generation of North American historians and archaeologists as the founder and long-time president (1969-1990) of the General Organization for Antiquities and Libraries. In this position, he took great strides toward studying and preserving Yemen's pre-Islamic and Islamic heritage, as well as encouraged new research by Yemeni and foreign scholars

Less widely known to foreign audiences are his life and activities before he turned his attention to writing and preserving Yemen's cultural heritage. On March 25 and July 15, 2004, Kamal Ali Al-Hijri and Gregory D. Johnson sat down with Qadi Al-Akwa' to talk about his life and times as a Yemeni revolutionary, diplomat and scholar. An edited version of the two interviews, both of which took place at the judge's house, follows.

To begin with, could you tell us where you were born and a little about your childhood, including schools you attended?

I was born in the city of Dhamar in 1338 A.H. (1920). When I was a child, I studied mathematics and calligraphy at the local *kuttab*. I later studied at the Madrasa Al-Shamsiyya and then at the Amr Mosque, both of which were in Dhamar. I attended both of these because I wanted to study with a particular sheikh and every student may study with the sheikh he likes.

My driving passion was a desire to do well. I was raised in an intellectual and scientific family with a strong tradition of learning. My father was one of the greatest scholars in Dhamar.

I know you've written a book dealing with the history of your family, Al-Akwa', which I'd like to talk about later. But for the moment, I'd like to ask you about the name Al-Akwa'. I've heard that it's a sort of nickname referring to your family's reputation as scholars, since the word akwa' has to do with being bent and many in your family were always bent over a book. Is that correct?

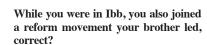
No, the name Al-Akwa' first appeared about 1,000 years ago. The original name was Al-Huwali. Mohammed bin Ibrahim took Al-Akwa' because he had a bent bone in his hand.

OK, let's get back to your own history. Did you complete your education in Dhamar or did you eventually move on to another city?

The next step in my education was to go to Ibb, where I studied under my brother Mohammed. My brother was one of the few in Yemen with a good knowledge of modern science and I was lucky to study under him. He knew people like Sheikh Arslan, Mohammed Abduh and Mohammed Rashid Rida.

Did you only work with your brother or did you study under other teachers as well?

Yes, I also received part of my education from Hasan ibn Zayd Al-Daylami. He lent me a great number of books, as did Ahmed ibn Abdulwahab Al-Warith. I benefited greatly from all the books they lent me. I also borrowed Hafiz's *Diwan* from Abdullah Ali Al-Shajani and enjoyed that book quite a lot. All these books and all these teachers were part of my education.



Yes, that's correct. My brother Mohammed led a reform movement in Ibb and Taiz. My role in the movement was very small compared to that of others. I delivered pamphlets and newspapers printed in Aden to homes and mosques in Ibb, Taiz and Sana'a.

In addition to transporting these papers, I also sometimes wrote articles for the reform movement that appeared in periodicals and newspapers like *Sawt Al-Yemen* and *Fatat Al-Jazirah*. Many of the articles I wrote never made it to Aden to get published.

Eventually, in 1944, I was arrested by the imam for my membership and activities in the group. We

ties in the group. We wanted justice and we wanted the imam to establish vital projects the country needed, like roads.

What happened after you were arrested?

Well, as I said, I was arrested in 1944 and I spent two years in the imam's prisons in

Ibb, Sana'a, Taiz and Hajjah. I spent the greater part of my incarceration in Hajjah prison. About 50 people were in jail with me at the time, including Qadi Al-Iryani, Nu'man, Sallal, Al-Amri and Al-Marwani – all who would play important roles in Yemen's revolution.

There were two chambers in the prison and all of us [prisoners] used to spend a great deal of time talking to one another. We would read, pass books to each other and work together in different study groups. Strangely, there was more freedom – at least intellectually – inside the prison than outside it. One could do things in prison that one never could do outside.

During my final days in prison, some prisoners, including myself, were allowed to receive books from our friends and family. Some of us wrote poetry or essays to pass the time. In Hajjah, I spent most of my time reading and studying [Arabic] grammar. Actually, the time in prison was a little like time spent in a garden. We used to laugh and dance, even though our feet and hands were chained. I could do things in prison I never could do in the outside world.

What did you do after your release, which was in 1946, correct?

Yes, I was released in late 1946, but I was sick, worn out and very scared of being arrested again. I was scared about everything – my life and my safety. I was scared of the imam. I even went into hiding for awhile, traveling between Dhamar, Ibb and Sana'a. I never spent a great deal of time in one particular place during those four years before I traveled to Aden in 1950.

After I'd been out of prison for awhile, I went to Imam Yahya and asked him to release my brother Mohammed. However, as it turned out, Mohammed remained in Hajjah prison until 1950, two years after Imam Yahya was killed.

You mentioned that you moved to Aden in 1950. What did you do there?

The first thing I did in Aden was get medical treatment for some health problems that had bothered me since my release from prison. More importantly, I was able to continue helping Yemeni reformers. Even though I played a very small role, I was able to work with those like Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Zubairi. We did a number of things in Aden connected with reformist activities, like holding meetings and writing articles. I also worked as a school teacher during my years in Aden.

At that time, the early 1950s, Aden was under British rule and Yemen was under the rule of Imam Ahmed. What differences did you notice between the two places?

Yes, there was a huge difference between Aden and Yemen. In Aden, there was absolute freedom. One could do anything



Qadi Isma'il Al-Akwa'

My driving passion

was a desire to do well.

I was raised in an

intellectual and

scientific family with a

strong tradition of

learning.

one wanted in Aden. In fact, there was a saying in Yemen then: "If you get bored, go to Aden." One could find complete freedom to live any way one wanted in Aden at that time. However, the exact opposite was the case in Sana'a and that's why great liberals like Al-Zubairi and Nu'man fled to Aden.

You said you stayed in Aden for about four years. Where did you go after that?

In 1954, I took my son Mohammed and went to Cairo. I studied for awhile in Cairo and even joined Dar Al-Ulum, but I didn't study there. My son spent his time at an elementary school

an elementary school there. I stayed in Cairo until 1958, when I traveled to Syria.

And then you returned to Yemen?

No, actually I returned to Egypt in 1959 and left from Cairo to go on the Hajj. It meant a great deal to me, not only because it was the first time I had gone on the Hajj, but also because I met my brother Mohammed in Mecca and he brought my wife and daughter. After the end of the Hajj season, I returned to Egypt for a short time and then returned to Yemen.

So you returned to Yemen in 1959? Yes, in late 1959. My brother Mohammed had taken a position as a judge in Ibb.

Did you work with your brother again in Ibb?

Well, eventually Imam Ahmed asked me and Ahmed Al-Amri to travel to the Soviet Union to establish a Yemeni mission there because the Soviets recently had opened one in Taiz. This was in 1961. I ended up staying in Russia until just after the revolution. I returned to Yemen in late 1962 or early

1963; I can't remember exactly when.

So you heard about the 1962 Revolution when you were in Moscow? How did you find out and what was your reaction?

Yes, I heard about the revolution while I was in Moscow. Words fail me to describe how extremely happy I was when I heard the news of the revolution.

You then returned to Yemen soon after the revolution. Did you join the government? What role did you take on?

I only ended up staying in Yemen for a very short time after I returned from the Soviet Union. In 1963, I traveled back to Egypt to take up a position as cultural adviser to the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo. I spent most of my time in Cairo reading and writing at Dar Al-Kutub – that's where I worked on *Al-Amthal Al-Yamaniyyah*.

In Egypt, I also was able to meet a number of important international scholars like Ahmed Fakhri, Dr. Shougi Dhayf and Dr. Hussein Al-Hamadani, all of whom contributed a great deal to my intellectual development.

At some point during the war, you returned to Yemen and took up the position of Minister of Information for the Yemeni government, correct?

Yes, I believe I returned to Yemen sometime in late 1967 and I was in that position during the 70-day siege (The Siege of Sana'a). My role essentially was to announce republican victories and welcome and host friends and brothers like

visiting delegations from other nations. However, there weren't many foreign reporters in Yemen at that time. I was Minister of Information until May 1969, I believe.

What did you do after you ended your time as Minister of Information?

Well, President Al-Iryani initially asked me to serve as Yemen's ambassador to Ethiopia – yes, I think it was Ethiopia – but I turned him down. I didn't want to leave Yemen. After having spent so much time in foreign countries, I wanted to stay in Yemen. I eventually told him I'd like to establish an institution to preserve and collect Yemen's intellectual treasures such as manuscripts, cultural artifacts and antiquities. The government later issued a decree establishing this institution to collect manuscripts and antiquities.

You started this institute?

Yes, Dar Al-Kutub. The idea was modeled on the one I visited in Egypt, but it eventually was established as part of the General Organization for Antiquities and Libraries (GOAL). I wanted to do something like this to collect and preserve Yemen's rich heritage. I was president of GOAL from March 1969 until 1990. I didn't ask for the position, but it was given to me since I had established the organization.

I'd like to talk a bit about all the books you've written. When did you find the time to write during your extremely busy life?

I did most of my writing when I was the director of the institute. During my life, I have benefited a great deal from libraries and from scholarly personalities I've met. For instance, while I was in the United States, I made a number of photocopies at the Library of Congress. I've used the books I've read as a guide and a reference for my own work.

to Yemen Many of your books, like Al-Amthal Al-Words fail me to Yamaniyyah, are extremely extensive.

describe how

extremely happy I was

when I heard the news

of the revolution.

extremely extensive. Can you talk about some of the work that goes into a book like that?

Yes, Al-Amthal Al-Yamaniyyah was the first book to compare Yemeni sayings and proverbs with those of Syria, Egypt, Iraq and other Arab countries. After the book

and other Arab countries. After the book was published, some friends recommended I limit my writings to only Yemeni proverbs and not deal with those of other countries. I did this in a later book, wherein I focused solely on Yemeni proverbs and their origins. The book turned out to be a two-volume work more than 1,000 pages long. Afterward, I began work on subjects like Yemen's language, customs, traditions and history.

What about the book you wrote on your family's history? From where did you get the idea?

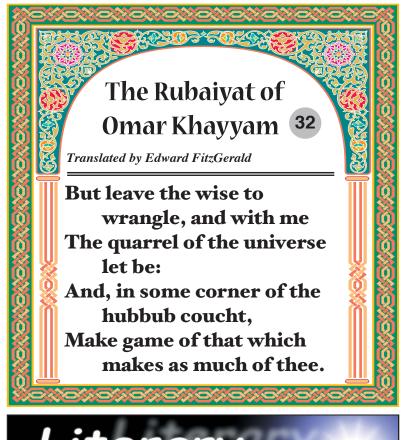
The idea of writing a book about my family came to my mind after I read other books of family histories, like the one on the Al-Iryani family.

Do you think your children or grandchildren will follow in your footsteps, becoming scholars?

My sons and grandsons are many things, each with their own interests, but I'm sure some of them will be scholars.

How would you like Yemenis to remember you after you've passed away? I'll leave that for those who remember.

Kamal Ali Al-Hijri and Gregory D. Johnson are researchers at the American Institute for Yemeni Studies



Literary Corner By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah Yemen: The People

Author: Qadhi Abdullah AbdulWahhab Al-Shamahi
Language: Arabic

Dalai Al-Branchi Arabic

Language: Arabic

Publisher: Dar Al-Hana Printing **Year Published:** 1973 **No. of Pages:** 370

ith the fight for the succession to the Caliphate taking a more violent turn when the fourth Caliph Ali Bin Abu Talib took over after Uthman Ibn Affan, the Yemenis were solicited by both contestants Ali (cousin of the and son in law of the Prophet Mohammed, (PBAUH), there was no way that the Yemenis could be kept on the sidelines as both factions knew that victory was inconceivable without them. The Yemenis have had a strong relationship with the Hashemite faction of the Quraish tribe, even in pre-Islamic times says the author by marriage and alliances and so it is understandable that Ali was able to easily court their support. In fact his leading commander Al-Ashtar had gotten close to taking over Ma'awiyah Bin Abu Sufyan's Command Tent at the Battle of Siffin, until the latter resorted to a plot that eventually turned the struggle into a stalemate, with Ma'awiyah holding on to Damascus and Ali maintaining control over the Peninsula and Iraq.

With the Umayyad chasing after the Shiites for the next 90 years or so after Ali's death, it was understandable that Yemen was to become a haven for some of the Shiite sects. The Isamilis and the Zeidis especially found good grounds to settle in Yemen. The Zeidi sect entered Yemen in the Year 380 AD, with the advent of Imam Al-Hadi Yahya Bin Hussein (a descendant of Ali and Fatima, the Prophet Mohammed's (PBAUH) daughter and establisher of the sect started by Zeid Bin Ali Bin Hussein Bin Ali Bin Abu Talib, who was killed by the Umayyad

Except for originally limiting the ruler of the state to the Hashemite House (descendants of Hassan and Hussein, the sons of Ali)1, that man is given discretion in deciding the course of action he can take and is not compelled to choose between evil and good and the need to overthrow any oppressive ruler, said the author, the Zeidi sect agrees with most of the known orthodox Islamic sects in many of the requirements of Islam. The author attributes to the first condition many countless battles over the history of Yemen during the last thousand years as many Imams sought to take over and revolt against an existing Imam, because he was found to be violating the principles of sound government in Islam (even if the Imam was a Hashemite).

Thus with the Islamic Central state becoming weaker as time passed, especially in the time of the Abbasid Caliphs, who took over the caliphate after claiming to avenge the death of many of their Hashemite cousins, who were killed by the Umayyad. But

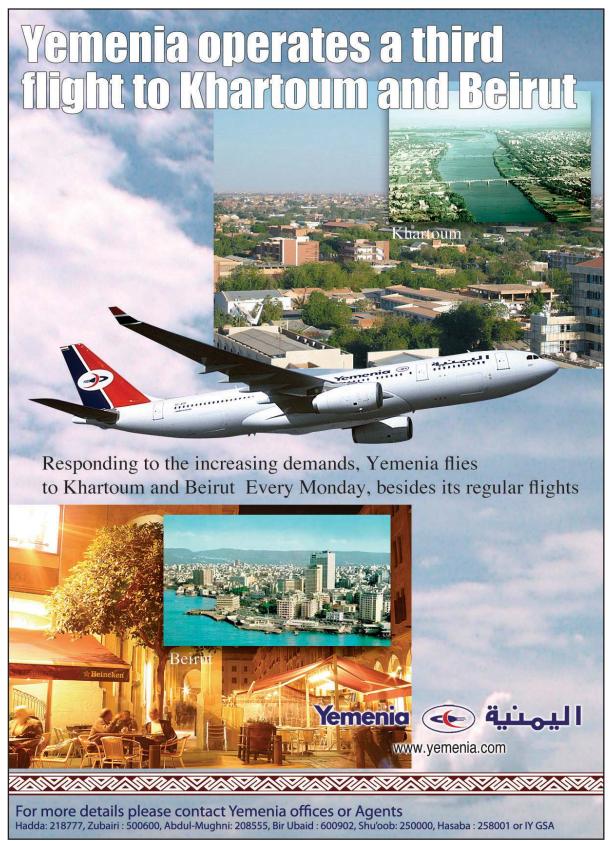
rather than advocate for the return of the Hashemites to the caliphate, they took over the Caliphate themselves and in turn also turned against their Hashemite cousins. Thus the Islamic state was embroiled in a long drawn out struggle for the Caliphate, as the Abbasid control of the empire dwindled to a nominal rule and the different Islamic regions of the Empire were left to dwindling states within a state until the Mongols under Kublai Khan took over Baghdad and ended the Caliphate, to be only restored later when the Ottoman Turks became the leading power in the Islamic World.

The author contends that the passing of the Caliph Ali led to the end of any hope of restoring Islam to the purity that it enjoyed under the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH) and the subsequent 4 Orthodox Caliphs that followed him (Ali being the last) and oppression became a common trait of most of the Islamic governments that followed up to modern times. Islamic unity was also weakened as each of the sides in the power struggle for the caliphate sought to win over constituencies here and there, thus evolving into the various sectarian differences that arose.

In Yemen, after Ali's death, Ma'awiyah sent a large force to Yemen to chase Ali's followers and there slaughtered 30,000 of those who were suspected of following Ali in his fight against the Umayyad, many of them "old men, women and children", as the author says. As the Third Century AH approached, Yemen was gaining in independence and various dynasties took over the helms in Yemen beginning with the Bani Ziyad Kingdom that ruled from 203 - 409 AH. There were twelve different kingdoms or states, as the author calls them, some ruling throughout Yemen, while others took over certain parts of the country. Some of these were also vassal states of outside powers like the Ayyubids and the Ottomans. Moreover some of these states overlapped in terms of the time periods of their existence. The First Kingdom, the Ziyadi Kingdom actually was born out of an attempt by the Abbasid caliph Al-Mamoun to subdue Yemen only to find that the commander of the force sent to carry out this task, Mohammed Ibn Abdullah Ibn Zivad, decided to set up his own free and independent state. He and his four successors, were able to extend their rule to Hadhramaut, the Hijaz, Oman. Their capital was mostly in

Ramzy: Use the second picture of Shamahi I provided last week. If not you will find it in your mailbox.

Modern Zeidi scholars have departed somewhat from this rule and are willing to concede that a ruler does not have to be from the House of Ali, if he was elected by the people and abides by the sound rules of a "good ruler", who upholds the people's rights and protects the Moslems from all wrongdoing against them.





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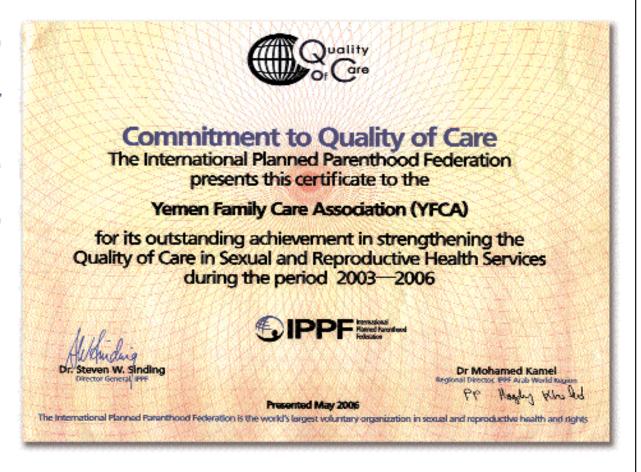
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Al-Saqr downs Shabab Al-Jeel 2-1, maintains lead

By: Ismail Al-Gabri

Winning 2-1 over the visiting Shabab Al-Jeel team from Hodeida in a 18th round meeting Friday afternoon, the Al-Saqr team from Taiz maintained first place in the Premier League.

The visiting team scored first in minute 21 of the first half through its Ethiopian professional player Younas while Al-Saqr answered in minute 43 of the same half via striker Abdullah Al-Barawi. In minute 3 of the second half, the Ethiopian Yourdanous netted the goahead goal putting Al-Saqr on top.

With the victory, Al-Saqr increased its total points to forty standing in first place with a 8-point lead on its closer competitor Helal Al-Hodeida that suffered a 4-2 loss to the visiting Al-Telal and fell to third position with 32 points while the visiting team advanced to fifth place in the league with 28 points.

Shabab Al-Jeel, who lost to Al-Saqr, remained in the 12th place with 18

Team

Al-Sagr

Sha'ab Ibb

Helal Hodeida

Ahli Sana'a

Al-Telal

Hassan

Al-Rashid

Sha'ab Hadramout

Al-Yarmouk

Tadhamun Shabwa

Al-Shu'la

Shabab Al-Jeel

Ta'awen Ba'adan

22 May

Yemeni Foot

12

Games

Played

18

Sha'ab Ibb team.

points.

In Attaq, second place Sha'ab Ibb defeated its host Tadhamun Shabwa 3-2 to increase its points to 33, while the loser remained in tenth place with 21 points. Scorer Fakri Al-Hubeishi netted a hat-trick for Sha'ab Ibb while striker Awsan Abdurrazaga scored Tadhamun

hat-trick for Sha'ab Ibb while striker Awsan Abdurrazaq scored Tadhamun							
tball League Stats							
	Draws	Losses	Goals	Goals	Total		
			for	against	Points		
	4	2	31	12	40		
	6	3	32	20	33		
	5	4	31	21	32		
	5	5	29	21	29		
	1	8	25	25	28		
	7	5	17	17	25		
	4	6	19	22	25		
	4	7	18	24	25		
	5	7	22	24	23		
	-	11	21	20	21		
	8	6	19	22	20		
	3	10	19	24	18		

15

Shabwa's two goals.

At the 22 May International Stadium in Aden, Al-Shu'ala drew its host Ahli Sana'a 1-1 raising its points to 20 and standing in 11th place, while the visiting team maintained its standing in fourth place with 29 points. Sudanese professional player Al-Rashidi Ali Fadhl scored for the host team in minute 43 of the first half, while Ali Al-Nono equalized the tally for Ahli Sana'a in minute 16 of the second half through a penalty shot.

Similarly, the Al-Yarmouk team from Sana'a drew its guest Ta'awen Ba'adan 2-2 falling back to ninth place despite increasing its points to 23, while the visiting team remained in last rank with 15 points.

In Abyan, Hassan beat its host the 22 May team from Sana'a 3-2 to leap to sixth place with 22 points, meanwhile the Sana'a team remained in the penultimate position with 15 points.

Sha'ab Hadramout, the only team representing the Seiyun governorate in the Premier League, downed its guest Al-Rashid from Taiz 3-0 to advance to eight place with 25 points, while the Taiz team retreated to seventh place with 35 points.

Ronaldinho and World Cup dreams

Fresh from leading Barcelona to the Champions League crown and a second consecutive La Liga title, Ronaldinho is in Germany riding an incredible wave of momentum. The reigning FIFA and European player of the year played a pivotal role in Brazil's triumph four years ago, but having since eclipsed Ronaldo as the nation's biggest star, the 26-year-old is expected to make this his World Cup.

Ronaldinho's rise began at Brazilian club Gremio, where he made his professional debut at the age of 17. After representing his country at the Under-17 and Under-20 levels, he earned a call-up to the senior national team for the 1999 Copa America. His impact was immediate.

Just moments after coming on as a substitute in Brazil's first game against Venezuela, he scored a majestic goal, flicking the ball over one defender, beating another and firing past the goalkeeper. Later that year, he top scored at the Confederations Cup, as Brazil finished runners-up to Mexico. He also spearheaded Brazil's challenge at the 2000 Olympics, where the South Americans suffered a shock defeat to Cameroon in the quarter-finals.

Not surprisingly, Ronaldinho began to attract interest from European clubs. He opted for a move to French giants Paris Saint Germain but Gremio refused to part with him, leading to a lengthy legal battle that kept him sidelined for the better part of 2001. This inactivity temporarily cost him a place on the national team, but once he finally began playing for his new team he quickly earned a recall, just in time for the 2002 World Cup.



Ronaldinho

By then, Ronaldinho had undergone a transformation from a prolific goalscorer to more of a playmaker. While he found the back of the next twice, including an improbable free kick against England in the quarterfinals, it was his vision and passing skills that captured the imagination. After returning to France for another season, he was ready for a bigger stage.

Spurning interest from Real Madrid and Manchester United, Ronaldinho

headed to Barcelona in the summer of 2003, following in the recent footsteps of fellow Brazilians Romario, Ronaldo and Rivaldo. He has proven the catalyst for a remarkable turnaround that has seen the Catalan club overcome the worst crisis in their history to become the dominant force in European football.

His tantalizing skills and magnetic smile have made him the biggest star in the game. He is a crowd pleaser and matchwinner rolled into one, the rare player capable blending Brazilians refer to as the futebol de arte (artistic soccer) with futebol resultados (winning soccer). His exploits in Spain have earned him

comparisons to Pele and Maradona.

Curiously, though, Ronaldinho has not quite duplicated his Barcelona form at the international level the past couple of years, leading many to suggest he is shackled by Carlos Alberto Parreira's rigid tactics. With that in mind, Parreira recently announced Ronaldinho will be given total freedom this summer - bad news for Brazil's opponents, but good news for just about everyone else.

The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Zones of confusion

By: Nabil Kacem

irst of all, we can say that in the -cultural,economical, and political life- making an approach to answer any question, giving an answer, and evaluating the answer are not an easy act, because of the confusion that surround our world.For example, supposing that we have this question which is better import workers or export jobs?. It might be impossible to be objective or to be sure in discussing such a topic like this- in the process of time- a subject that touches all along, and that is related to all subiects and all countries. We know that there are many experiences in importing workers and exporting jobs, but is there one experience which can be a canonical form? In this article we shall make only an approach to the answer; we don't want our approach to be of no effect, we want it to be debatable. Hence, if we have talents of a high order, we can only add some vital points to the argument.

Historically, it is generally agreed that importing workers and exporting jobs have always been a vital consideration, they are two major factors in the economic expansion of many countries. At all events, we need to mention here two main experiences: Firstly, the role of immigrant workers in the Western Europe after the end of the Second World War. Secondly, the role of exporting jobs in the countries very rapidly industrialized in the late twentieth century. Indeed, their contributions to human civilization are very large. However, It is evident that all historical experiences were always conditioned. Even we know the exact circumstances surrounding these experiences, this doesn't mean that we can generalize the same results. In short, we are always under the obligation of respecting the process of history. In this respect, we can declare in the beginning of this article that we are seeking shelter from the certainty that embraced many writings over the years. For that, we don't want to answer this question neither by an abstract priorities nor by dogma nor by generality. Besides, we can affirm that neither the Quantitative analysis nor the Qualitative analysis can answer this question exhaustively. Accordingly, we can say that we shall

face four zones of confusion, which have their influences over the investor's decision. We can state in this article these four zones:

Concerning the first zone of confusion; we can talk about the interaction between this question and all aspects of human life, political, cultural, and economical. How can the investor determine and control all variables? We know for example that Import workers and export jobs have their interactions with many topics, technology, laws, education, taxes, salaries, danger of foreignization, cultural plurality, nationalization of industries... etc. On one hand, we can not agree that Import workers alternates with Export jobs. On the other hand, we can not discuss all these topics, and many other topics that we did not mention here in one single article.

It is known that immigrants workers cross national boundaries in search of better employment than is available at home. They are necessary under the influence of the demand for workers. It is known also that immigrant jobs cross national boundaries in search of better interest rate. At all events both phenomena are the result of the economic expansion. It is reasonable to conclude here that the behaviour of floating capital is always determined by the conditions of investment. This capital is the main reason for increasing levels of interdependence over vast distances, and the main reason for many other changes in the worldwide. Samir Amin describes the period after the Second World War, says that "the postwar takeoff allowed for massive economic, political, and social transformations in all regions of the world. These transformations were the product of social regulations imposed on capital by the working and popular classes"(). The varieties of capitalism showed us that the investor always earns more interests. He has the potential to invest in industry, because it is known that the most efficient sector that makes rapidly the accumulation is industry. So, what kind of workers the investor needs to import? And what kind of jobs he needs to export? We think that approaching to the answer might be impossible without making need analysis. If we take in consideration such analyses we shall reach to one result: societies and investors have their own needs,

depends on their special situations. It is difficult to really know the decision of the investor in this zone of confusion where all variables play their roles.

Markets are the second zone of confusion, it is difficult to know the hidden curriculum of markets. It is difficult right now to understand and explain effectively the different varieties of capitalism. It is difficult also to understand and explain many details as the transition from the role of share-holders to the role of stakeholders. The markets become complex with the global interdependence. They are not of the same quality, we know also for instance that it is much more complex when we talk about the markets in underdeveloped countries with the governmental incompetence and corruption, as for this we think that corruption is the main cause of many phenomena such as the brain drain, and the absence of foreign investments. In describing the mechanism of market Jeorge Soros says: " There is a powerful case for the market mechanism, but it is not that markets are perfect; it is that in a world dominated by imperfect understanding, markets provide an efficient feedback mechanism for evaluating the results of one's decision and correcting mistakes"(). With this situation we think that the investor's decisions will be irrational if he neglects the role of the workers representatives, the approximate role of knowledge, the role of governments which introduce new control on the import of certain goods from abroad, the role of green politics, the role of replacing much of the heavy work by machines on farms or by robots in industry, the role of saving the intellectual property...etc. With these roles, there are necessarily many new results, the investor can not work his employees very hard, the companies must offer excellent working conditions, the more efficient methods lead to greater productivity...etc. This new situation effects necessarily the market. The investor must not deny the absence of perfect knowledge. Before deciding or initiating ,he needs to know for example that the value has now a universal nature, and that the entire world has the same value of industrialism, individualism, and evaluation of organizational mentality. For that the investor

must be open to contradictory choices, how can he behave with the mysteries in the market in general and in industry in particular? We suppose that his right decision will necessarily respect many new variables as the new technology, the new markets, the decentralization, the official and non-official organizational rationalism, the new cultural and political orientations, and the invest rate as the most important motor of the international economy and capital which puts the investor in a difficult situation. Gilles Deleuze says that "Every thing is rational in Capitalism except capital or capitalism itself. The stock market is certainrational: one can understand it. study it, the capitalists know how to use it, and yet it is completely delirious, it's mad. It is in this sense that we say: the rational is always the rationality of an irrational"(). For example, the foreign direct investment as the potential to invest in high technologies as the biotechnology, it has also the potential to invest more in underdeveloped countries not only in telecommunication and services but also in new sections. In this process we have observed many experiences as Singaphore and Malaysia, we know how they change their educational systems to adapt with the new approximate role of knowledge. From these experiences and from other experiences we can state two main results. The knowledge gap is not an obstacle, the corruption also will not continue with the new conscious which appreciate the importance of democracy. However, we can say that the twin of developments of transnational information technologies and political networking in the world have the potential to accelerate sociopolitical change, before the appearance of this change so many things are still confusing. We are not sure about the real future of investment horizons. Now we shall try to highlight the third zone of confusion: Globalization.

In describing this zone we can say here that the global equilibrium is not a case of decision, but a case of cultural, political, and economical process. So, when we talk about globalization, we need necessarily to talk about boundaries, cultures, resources, markets, humanization, safety, and environment. Therefore, globalization has not effected only the balance of

political military power in the world but also the economical and cultural powers. It is evident that because of the role of technology in communications and transport the knowledge is abroad. Furthermore, it is known for example that more than 90% of technology found in developed countries. What about increasing the shares value in the international technology sector?. Besides, it is difficult to really know whether the effects of WTO and GATT laws can participate in rationalizing the international trade or complicating it. In spite of the presence of the idea of the new world order in economical writings, but it is also difficult to know whether the new world order will bear or not. Supposing that it will bear, it is difficult to be sure whether it will participate in the regulation of international trade or not. How can we talk about the humanization of international relations with the exclusion of workers from the international agreements? Under the circumstances, and with these new results it might be impossible to find a rational behaviour of the globalized capital. The issue of globalization will continue with its effects and in this issue it is a matter of fact that the zones of confusion mentioned above are always present. Can we talk about globalization without talking about the transnational homogenization of culture, about the westernization, and about the Americanization? We need to take into consideration the fourth zone of confusion: Americanization.

We think that the synthesis of military actions and media has its periodical changes. Accordingly, we don't need in this article to pay attention to the approximate military role of U.S.A. but we need to mention here that U.S.A attracted in 1999 only more than the one-third of international foreign corporation's investments, nevertheless, the best zone of foreign immigrant workers having a high education. Anyhow, the behaviour of U.S.A as a unique force which has its effects on the world and on the American foreign policy. For that it is difficult to analyse effectively the results of this behaviour in the process of time. Noam Chmesky in trying to describe the results of U.S.A behaviours says: " What is planned, then, is increasing polarization, and development of sufficient force to control it in the interests of wealth and privilege. No one can predict with any confidence whether such plans will succeed, any more than in the past. The primary determinants are unmeasurable and unpredictable: will and choice"(). In accordance with this situation, we can state some main results. As for the military aspect U.S.A still the first dominant power, but for the economical aspect there is a zone of confusion. In the internal side there are the huge trade deficit, and the social security, these two factors have their effects, adding new labor fringes, which welcome benefits to workers and smarting costs to employers. They increase necessarily the costs of production, so many corporations already have moved jobs abroad and plan to relocate more. In the external side, we can mention here the ascending powers, Europe, China, and Russia. Japan also becomes the largest exporter of electronic goods, India becomes also an important exporter of software and software specialists, and the industrialization of many countries. Yes, the investments in general are influenced by the principle of rationality, but the interaction between sciences and techniques in research centers will create obviously new rationalities, depending on their capacities in describing and in understanding the new period of disorder. Samir Amin says: "the twenty-first century will not be America's century . it will be one of vast conflicts, and the rise of social struggles that question the ambitions of Washington and of capital. The crisis is exacerbating contradictions within the dominant classes. These conflicts must take on increasingly acute international dimensions, and therefore pit states and groups of states against each other"(). In fact, we can say that the Americanization is really a zone of confusion.

In conclusion, it seems, in away, that the possibility of exporting jobs is more logical than the possibility of importing workers. However, we affirm that the investors can not decide without taking in consideration the world of confusion. Moreover, with the approximate role of Zionism, and war merchants we think that we shall pass from the big zone of confusion to the zone of uncertainty principle.





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Jambiahs: A durable tradition

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri

he jambiah is a distinguishing feature of the Yemeni uniform and I don't think there is Yemeni man who does not have a Jambiah", said Awad Al-Samhi, a Jambiah maker. "The jambiah is important for Yemenis, it is part of our heritage, and Yemenis have been wearing it for hundreds of years. The tradition of making Jambiahs have come down through generation after generation. I do not think that the Yemeni people will give up wearing jambiahs as these are part of their public customs."

Jambiah

The jambiah is a dagger-like device and it is usually 5 to 10 cm wide and 15 to 30 cm long. It is made of special types

of iron and it is linked to a handle called the head "al-Raas" which is made of rhino-horn and it is also studded with two small gold circles. The al-Raas gives the jambiah its distinguishing shape that can differ from one location to another and most of the time precious handles are confined to older jambiahs.

The sheath (Al-Aseeb)

Abdu Al-Wusabi, one of those crafting jambiahs in the old city of Sana'a, when asked about the sheaths for jambiahs explains that "the sheaths are different from one area to another in regards to shape and embroidery. The sheaths are made of a special wood called 'Al-Tanb' and it is sawed into two equal pieces and the lower part is curved to the right in order to give a good appearance to the jambiah. Recently, different sheaths have been added, some made from leather and some are made of



Jambiahs are sold in many shops throughout Yemen.

leather threads coated with special painting, while others are covered with gold or silver."

When asked about the belt (Al-Hizam), Al-Wusabi said, "The jambiah's belt is made of leather covered by embroidered and colored cloth together with special clothes". "A belt embroidered by hand will cost more than one embroidered by machine", he added.

Types of jambiahs and their prices

"There are different types of jambiahs such as Al-Qabeth, Al-Basali, Al-Zaraf, Al-Zaraf heart (qalb), Asadi, Qalb Alasadi and Saifani." said Awad Al-Samhi. "The prices of jambiahs differ in accordance with quality, shape, age. We can find jambiah of 10,000 YR and another one with 100,000, while another one can reach 1,000,000. Some other types of jambiahs may also reach 15,000,000 or even 20,000,000 as those owned by some Sheikhs and dignitaries

in different Yemeni locations." Added Awad, "This shows that the jambiah has a special status for Yemeni, particularly in tribal areas as it is part of their custom to consider those one who do not wear jambiah to be of less influence and status. About wearing and using jambiah, we are told by Ahmed Al-Ausimi a dignitary from a tribal area, that "jambiah is a supplement to man and there are none but wears jambiah only those presummed mad or impaired. The one who doesn't wear a jambiah is called 'Naked' and he is likened to a woman. It is considered a a shame for someone to attend a tribal occasion without jam-

Regarding the use of jambiahs, Al-Ausimi says, "the jambiah was originally the weapon by which a person could protect himself, later it became part of his personal adornment and weaponry. Problems are also solved by jambiahs as the two opponent parties give their

jambiahs to sheikhs as evidence that they are content with his judgment. It can also be used by sheikhs as a mark of asking the other party to join for a judgment." He adds, "jambiahs are also used in the Yemeni public dancing 'Al-Bara' as dancers hold the head of their jambiahs and with different movements of jambiah to the left and right the spectators are shown the jambiahs and it is a way of pride in regards to a jambiah's age and price." Awad concludes by saying, "jambiah can be used to obtain anothers' help and subsidiary when somebody is wronged or objects to a big problem. The person will come to those intended to help and breaks his

Jihaz 'jambiah sheath' before them and they will accept his demand whatever it

The jambiah has been and still remains a distinctive Yemeni tradition over the years and ages. Wearing jambiahs was prevalent in the north of Yemen and to a lesser degree in some areas in the South before Yemen's Unification. After rhinoceros hunting was banned, the producers of jambiahs resorted to ivory, marble, fish-bones and wood, thus causing their prices to decrease making it possible for anyone to own a jambiah. Tourists are keen to buy a jambiah as a kind of memento to take back



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The art of making the jambiah.





