

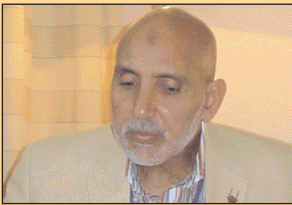



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Inside:   **5** Yemen Times Elections Update  **10** Dr. Hany El-Bana Yemen has great potential, so why has it reached this poor state?  **11** Bahah: A new era for Yemen's oil industry

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Do you think both parties in the Lebanon war will abide by the U.N. cease-fire resolution?
 I don't know (10%) Both will (9%)
 Hezbollah will (25%) Both won't (31%)
 Israel will (25%)
 This edition's question:
 A Yemeni doctor's allowance is three times less than the average salary paid to a foreign nurse. Based on this, do you think medical services rendered for Yemeni citizens can reach a high standard?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I do not know
 Go to our website at:
 yementimes.com/#poll
 and have your voice heard

EU Election Observation Mission aims for election fairness

By: Dana Patterson

SANA'A, Aug. 16 — Having arrived yesterday in Yemen, Chief Observer, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), stated in a press conference yesterday that the European Union Election Observation Mission (EOM) being deployed to Yemen in the coming days and weeks for the upcoming Sept. 20 presidential and local elections seeks to ensure free, fair and democratic Yemeni election process.

The SCER invited the EU to observe the elections because, "This is an important election for Yemen's movement forward," Nicholson noted, "so we are present for the long term and not just for election day." The EOM's mandate is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process and offer an impartial, balanced and informative assessment of Yemen's elections.

"This observation work is an impor-



Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

tant part of EU policy promoting human rights and democratization throughout the world," Nicholson added. She intends to hold meetings with various officials, political parties, candidates, civil society representatives and the media.

Continued on page 2



Chief Observer Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne at the press conference.

PDF dialogue cites Yemen Times and Al-Ayyam as exemplary

By: Haja' Al-Jahafi

SANA'A, Aug. 15 — Addressing the role of private journalism in the upcoming elections, the Political Development Forum (PDF) administered a direct and serious dialogue over two weeks between private journalism representatives and partisan political leaders.

In their dialogue, correspondents and

chief editors of private newspapers and electronic websites addressed numerous issues related to private journalism, such as lack of awareness among parties involved in the political process regarding the role played by national journalism in general and private journalism in particular. They added that private journalism helps shape public opinion and strengthens awareness among society members.

Discussions also dealt with factors hampering private journalism in particular, including shortage of resources and pressures imposed upon it by both the authority and opposition. Additionally, discussions hinted at weak relations between private journalism and political parties, which are unresponsive to violations journalists' experience.

On the other hand, the partisan polit-

ical leaders attempted, via their address, to justify their positions; however, some admitted there is a shortcoming and that the relationship between the parties and journalism isn't so good. Others insisted on the importance of enhancing such dialogues. They also insisted private journalism play its role in serving national issues, as they're of interest to all.

Both parties also discussed several issues around which such differences dominate, such as what's meant by private or national journalism, neutrality, professionalism and impartiality.

Participants, including journalists and Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) leaders, collectively agreed that the Yemen Times and Al-Ayyam newspapers are exemplary in administrative and institutional performance, as well as professionalism and neutrality in dealing with various issues.

Addressing participants, political activist and PDF Chairman Ali Saif asserted, "Partisan political leaders should know that a partisan member sees his party as right, while a non-partisan member sees that the partisan member has part of the truth. They also should know that the partisan member sees himself as the fittest for home service, while the non-partisan member sees that the partisan member is trying relatively hard to serve the country."

Saif also demanded those affiliated with the JMP direct their newspapers to cover PDF activities, as is the case with private newspapers, especially in the upcoming period. "I hope the goal, for which this important symposium was made, is achieved," he added.

The PDF intends to hold such dialogues every Tuesday until the election, addressing various issues and aiming to bridge the gap between the JMP and private journalism.

Doctors stage sit-in, health minister considers it election fever

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Aug. 15 — Hundreds of physicians and pharmacists conducted a sit-in Tuesday in front of the Cabinet in Sana'a, protesting what they consider is government's lack of commitment toward health sector employees' demands.

"We're here today asking the government to fulfill its promise to raise physician and pharmacist wages on the basis of Article 26 in the 2002 Wage Law," said Dr. Mohammed Al-Thawar, head of the Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists syndicate. "We ask for no less than \$500 for physician and pharmacy graduates and more premiums for specialists," he added.

Beginning their strike in the early morning, physicians and pharmacists raised Yemeni flags and signs reading, "Current salaries are a humiliation to the occupation and contempt for its employees!"

Continued on page 2



A view of the doctors' sit-in in front of the Cabinet.

New political movement born

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Aug. 15 — At a Sana'a press conference the establishment of a new political movement called The Future Movement officially was declared.

At the inaugurating press conference attended by several Yemeni media members and politicians, official Future Movement spokesman Dr. Adel Al-Shuja' emphasized that the group is not a political party and does not think to assume power. He affirmed that the movement is the product of the aggravating crisis developing daily due to absence of the cultural dimension.

He added that the movement will focus on a group of issues agreed upon via political trends and directions, criticizing political parties' tendencies to look for points of disagreement, which he described as impeding transfer to the

future. He affirmed that media address of the authority and opposition lacks harmony and has no common characteristics.

Al-Shuja' announced that the party stands with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who represents and achieves the desires of 20 million Yemeni citizens. For his part, Muhsin Al-Amoudi, a member of the movement's preparatory committee, said it bet on President Saleh, not because he's leader of the General People's Congress (GPC), but rather because he's considered a president elected by the people.

A Future Movement political statement stressed that the group does not present itself as an alternative to anyone in particular, but rather for all people, as it shares common future needs with all parties. It is in this meaning where all



Leaders of the Future Movement officially declare the group's inauguration.

national activities meet, representing a common point of interest. While the movement's doors are open wide to various intellectual and political trends, its only condition is that its members will forget and leave behind their past conflicts in order to overcome future challenges.

Continued on page 2

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Trained preachers to activate gender and productive health issues

SANA'A, Aug. 15 — A two day course in Sana'a was aimed at preachers to discuss productive health and gender issues from the Islamic perspective.

The course was attended by 25 preachers and arranged by the Women's National Committee (WNC) with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and with cooperation of the Ministry of Religious Endowments. It was part of training courses covering Dhamar, Taiz, Almhwit, Haja, Sana'a, and Hodida.

In the six regions the course reached 150 preachers and religious leaders, according to JICA.

"The aim of this course is to inform the preachers of the problems of productive health in Yemen and gender and how they can activate and handle these issues in their religious speeches to raise the public awareness with such issues," said Masako Takada, of JICA.

The productive health problem in Yemen is being reviewed by Dr. Jamela Al-Raiby, General Director of Women's affair in Ministry of Health, because WHO statistics revealed Yemen has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the world.

"The statistics estimate that maternal mortality is 366 per 100,000 live births. These women are passing away due to complications during the



Preachers in the training course that held in Sana'a.

delivery or post delivery and sometimes due diseases during pregnancy term. The rate of mortality among children under five years reached 102 children out of 1000," said Al-Raiby.

She pointed to the importance raising awareness of the public to avoid the medical risks that may face the mother and her child saying, "We don't talk about birth control, but we are taking about the means and the ways which help to plan for healthy mothers and healthy children."

The course will be followed by an

evaluation and mentor process for the performance of the preachers to see how they handle these issues in their speeches, according to Takada who added, "The evaluation team will also meet the people who attend the lectures in the mosques."

The project coordinator for WNC, Noria Shujaa Aldeen, explained the reason behind insertion gender concept when she said, "The gender concept means knowing the roles, relations, and duties between men and women and how it differs from one society to another. We insert this

concept with productive health because woman carry the pregnancy, but her opinion is rarely taken in consideration regarding medical care, or using family planning methods. Such decisions are still taken by men. Therefore the aim of this course is to expose women's rights in Islam and in gender concept framework. Women must be involved and must know her rights and men must admit these rights which are not out Islam."

The preachers are the most effective group in the society and they can address the educated people and illiterate people, according to Aldeen.

"Unfortunately the government organizations address the educated people, ignoring the fact that the uneducated people are form a huge part of the Yemeni society in rural and urban regions. These illiterate people believe many misconceptions regarding protective health. Moreover if the religious are not aware of such issues they might cause many problems. For example if we have arranged awareness campaigns in certain areas for many years; and then one religious speech delivered by a preacher who does not believe on these concepts could damage these efforts. So we have to address these preachers first to attract them to help us to raise the public awareness in these issues," said Aldeen.

Cuban doctors discuss diseases



An orthopedic doctor discussing his research

SANA'A, Aug. 16 — The Cuban Ambassador to Yemen conducted a scientific meeting for senior specialists working here to review researches and experiences they acquired during their three-year service in Yemeni hospitals.

The one day meeting at the Cuban Embassy saw specialists discuss common and incurable diseases, their causes and treatment, cosmetic surgery, kidney problems and heart and abdominal diseases.

"This medical research meeting is not the first made by Cuban medical missions in Yemen. Still it is con-

cerned Yemeni authorities did not get benefit of it, in spite of the fact that a copy of research papers and experiments were submitted to them," said one of the participants.

Periodical meetings of Cuban doctors try to document the incurable diseases in Yemen, as well as the scientific research papers and experiments. It also sheds light on how these diseases can be cured and prevented.

There are over 60 Cuban specialists and university teachers currently working in Yemeni hospitals.

News in Brief

Sana'a: Smuggled medicines caught

Aug 15 — Security and customs authorities at Sana'a International Airport confiscated smuggled medicine worth seven million YR (US almost 34,000\$). The medicine was brought into the country in the luggage (7 suitcases) of a Yemeni passenger coming from Egypt on Egyptian Airlines last week. The medicine is for heart, stomach, diabetes and blood pressure diseases.

Car theft Gang tried

Aug 14 — One of the most dangerous car theft gangs in Sana'a is now on trial. The gang is made of 16 members, of which one is a female, and they're facing crimes of burglary, fraud and resisting police authorities. The gang was caught at the end of last year and is currently in custody at the main prison in Sana'a.

Al-Dhal'e: Cashier flees with money

Aug 16 — Hundreds of teachers held a strike at the tourism district in front of the governmental compound in Damt in demand for their July salaries.

Apparently the treasurer of the Ministry of Education's office at the district fled away carrying with him the salaries of more than 700 teachers. The amount is estimated to be around YR 16 million (more than \$US 80,000). Police are still in search for the vanished cashier, who is rumoured to have fled the country.

Refresher course for teachers concluded

Aug 15 — The High Institute for Training and rehabilitation of teachers concluded its professional refresher course for 43 teachers from various districts last Thursday. The course was 12 days long and targeted both male and female primary level teachers. This training comes in accordance to the ministerial plan for enhancing the education level around the republic.

Lahj: Tour Al-Baha staff continue strike

Aug 16 — Tour Al-Baha Hospital is still handicapped as its staff including professional medical staff and administrative personnel have been striking for one week because of not receiving their salaries and wages last month.

Apparently the reason why their salaries were not released is because of a dispute between the previous health office accountant and the district authority who replaced the former with a new accountant. This strike had badly affected the citizens according to those in Lahj who say all medical treatment in the hospital has stopped in addition to no admissions of new cases. The summer rains have made the problem worse as static water increased the risk of malaria infection.

Aden: Commercial Arbitration seminar

Aug 16 — The seminar discussed the commercial disputes and means of resolving them and the legal background for such legislations. The focus of the seminar was the importance of arbitration in view of Yemen's joining the World Trade Organisation, and the related issues regarding free trade and the requirements of the international trade system. A number of businessmen, administrative and affiliates to the judiciary system attended the seminar.

Taiz: Rural area teachers trained

Aug 16 — Locals at Hathran area northwest of Taiz complain their water sources are contaminated to the extent that many had to leave the area. Apparently Al-Buraihi Dam, which was built by the state at Al-Taiziya locality as a liquid garbage dump for the area, has polluted the valley water. The liquid dump contains waste from the workshops, slough and domestic waste and dirty water coming from the swamps in the area. The problem in Hathran is four-years-old because the water pipeline network is damaged allowing the contaminated water to mix with the clean water. The pollution leads to the spread of epidemics among the human and animal population in the area and ruins fertile lands.

Awareness seminar on elections

Aug 16 — The Yemeni Women's Union Taiz branch in coordination with the Supreme Elections Committee conducted a seminar on elections last Monday. The seminar focused on the importance of women's participation in elections, and the importance of local elections in development.

Al-Mukala: Rural area teachers trained

Aug 16 — A workshop, which aims at training and activating teachers in rural areas, have concluded in Al-Mukala. The three-day workshop targeted 30 teachers from Shabwa, Marib, Al-Jawf, Al-Mahara, Al-Muakla, Sayoun and Soqatra and it was funded by the World Bank and innuagrated by Ms. Faouzia Noman head of girls education sector at the Ministry of Education and Dr. Awadh Al-Bakri director of the Education's Office in Hadramout.

Shabwa: Summer Activities Center for girls concludes

Aug 15 — The first summer activities center for girls in Shabwa concluded last Saturday. The center arranged for 60 girls from all around the governorate to meet in Ataq for one month and participate in various cultural, sport, artistic and social events as well as be introduced to various art and handi crafts during the summer course. The course events were hosted by Arwa Secondary School in Ataq, and was commended by many of the participants parents and

concerned authorities.

The conclusion ceremony included awarding some of the distinguished girls and supporting officials. Ms. Lina Al-Harithi, head of the center, said it proved to be very successful although it was the first of its kind in the governorate.

Sa'ada: Water Supply and sanitation Project for Sa'ada

Aug 15 — A joint water and sanitation project between the German government (85 percent) and the Yemeni government (15 percent) was signed last Monday. The Project aims to enhance the social and economic development of Sa'ada governorate and reduce the health risks caused by bad water and poor sanitation in the governorate. More than 50 thousand inhabitants are to benefit from this project, which costs YR3.6 Billion. The project includes the construction of seven wells, establishing a large-scale water pump, pipeline network, power generators, Chloroform treatment premises, three water tanks, as well as a sanitation network and waste water treatment station.

Continued from page 1

EU election observers

"It's essential that all candidates and Yemeni voters be able to exercise their democratic rights in the entire political process fully, freely and peacefully," Nicholson stressed.

The EOM will observe the entire election process, including the legal framework and its implementation, the work of the election administration, campaign activities, media conduct, voting, ballot counting and tabulation, as well as the general environment in which the elections are being conducted.

The observers are from 22 EU member states, representing nearly all member states except three, composed largely of election experts. Forty long-term observers arrive tomorrow and then 40 short-term observers will arrive nearer to the election. Nicholson will be in Yemen much of the time, working with the 11-member team of key election experts.

"There's a huge range of expertise; it's the most extraordinary and interesting team. They're all from the different perspectives on elections, whether law, tabulation, methodology, etc. All of those aspects must be understood fully for the purposes of observation," she explained.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Ralph Dreyer, European Commission Charge d'Affaires, stated, "Democracy is very important nowadays in Yemen and there's no way around it. We as the European Union appreciate the direction the Republic of Yemen has taken, not only for our interests, but in the interests of the Yemeni people as well.

"Indeed, this country needs more democracy and good governance in order

to attract foreign investment and make Yemenis invest in this country," he added, noting that Yemen's economy will have to feed approximately 40 million citizens in 20 years and free and fair elections will contribute to investment and building trust in the nation's economic and political system. "The EU stands ready to assist the Yemeni government in that effort and, in particular, with this observation," he concluded.

Nicholson assured that observers will be in each of Yemen's 21 governorates and as many polling stations as possible. "So you can be confident that our results will be statistically viable and correct," she asserted. "Our election experts have been tried and tested in many countries in many different elections and environments, so we are absolutely confident, and you can be absolutely confident, that what we put in our report will be accurate, sound, honest and true."

Deputy Chief Observer Richard Chambers stated that Yemen's civil society organizations will be "very key" to gaining access and deploying observers in distant areas somewhat limited by tribal constraints. "We don't expect any [election] violations and we encourage all individuals not to undertake such violations. If we see them, we'll report them," he added.

"We have a hugely experienced team — one of the best teams of election observers ever — so we're aware of such [tribal] sensitivities and will behave appropriately," Nicholson noted, "We hope to get the maximum benefit of understanding the local situation."

Doctors stage sit-in

Doctors confirmed that what they receive isn't enough to survive. "The average doctor's monthly salary in Yemen is YR 25,000-YR 30,000 (less than \$200), whereas specialists make YR 35,000-YR 40,000 (about \$200)," said Dr. Mohammed Al-Jaradi, head of the syndicate's Sana'a office.

However, Dr. Hamdiah Al-Qatan explained that some doctors earn only YR 17,000 (less than \$100). "This amount doesn't even cover transportation expenses, so how can a doctor in this situation treat patients when he's tired and hungry?" she wondered.

Many qualified physicians emigrate abroad seeking better lives, according to Al-Qatan, who confirmed that poor performance of medical personnel is a reflection of the difficult circumstances they suffer. "If the government wants to improve medical conditions in Yemen, it must fix and improve doctors' situations," she concluded.

"We will carry out all legal and constitutional means to express our demands and rights," said Dr. Najeeb Abu Osaba, who insisted on doctors' right to hold sit-ins to express their demands.

Six weeks ago, the syndicate met with the Minister of Health and Minister of Civil Service, who hinted that the medical staff situation would improve when the new wage and salary scale goes into effect, according to Abu Osaba, who added, "We gave the Ministry of Health limited time to

keep its promise; however, when nothing was done, we conducted this sit-in and we'll continue holding such activities until we attain our rights," he confirmed.

The syndicate issued a statement delivered to Yemen's prime minister, demanding, "Implementation of a just compensation structure for doctors and pharmacists, along with improved conditions in which health sector employees work." The statement ended by threatening to hold a sit-in before the presidency building if the government ignores their demands.

Minister of Health and Population Dr. Abdul Kareem Rasa told Saba News Agency that the doctors who arranged the sit-in "belong to the Joint Meeting Parties." He considers their statement as "coming in the context of election fever, which has caught some individuals, to achieve small factional benefits," and described their attitude as an irresponsible act. The minister wondered about the syndicate's invitation to sit-ins in time for a committee consisting of syndicate physicians, pharmacists, dentists and nurses, to prepare a draft project by which health workers would be granted a professional allowance according to Article 30 of the national wage and salary strategy. He affirmed that his ministry will go forward in completing discussions of the project with the Ministry of Civil Service and Insurances and the Ministry of Finance to be put into effect soon.

New political movement born

Additionally, the statement mentioned that Future Movement is a national political alignment whose slogan is, "Yemen first. Yemen always." The group works to realize certain goals, among them reorganizing the national economy, rectifying failures and concentrating on economic sectors with competitive characteristics, such as industry, trade, tourism and fisheries.

The movement also works to requalify coastal cities according to new economic data, complete infrastructure including roads, communications, water and electricity, as well as link coastal cities via a railroad network. They also aim to focus on educational system reform and be connected to development needs and a system encouraging creativity. They also aim to reform the health care system to ensure that it's characterized by efficiency and good service covering the entire nation.

Group goals also stressed enhancing the state's role and that of its institutions, activating the role of law and order, respecting human rights and general freedoms, working to curbing the spread of weapons or trading in them, regulating weapons possession — at least in governorate provincial capitals and urban areas — along with reaching a national accord to end vengeance, and devoting

national energies to the development process.

Their goals also call for reforming the judiciary system through responsible national dialogue aimed at achieving full independence and professional efficiency of legal personnel to become guardians of rights and freedoms and guarantors of democratic change.

The Future Movement statement also affirmed its support for President Saleh and alliance with him both before and after the elections, demanding he create a qualitative transfer in the political system and an economic leap guaranteeing Yemenis a stable political and democratic regime.

The movement also requested adopting a comprehensive national program qualifying Yemen with all its economic, political, social and cultural components to become a capable partner to bear its responsibility for the requirements of today's world, taking into account that Yemen will be an effective partner with its neighbors and within the regional and international sphere and loyal to all its commitments, particularly to human rights.

A Future Movement delegation visited President Saleh last week. The movement's membership includes businessmen, journalists and personalities from civil society organizations.

Lebanese army readies to move south

Lebanon's army is preparing to move into south Lebanon as the United Nations plans to send an initial force of 3,500 troops to the region to enforce the truce between Israel and Hezbollah.

The Lebanese army will begin moving 15,000 troops south of the Litani River on Thursday in line with a UN resolution to end the fighting, a senior Lebanese political source said on Wednesday.

"As we speak, the army is readying the force," the source said, adding that Lebanese units would stay out of areas occupied by Israeli troops until UN peacekeepers move in.

In New York, the UN has pressed ahead with plans to send troops from France, Turkey, Malaysia and Germany to southern Lebanon.

Hedi Annabi, an assistant secretary-general for peacekeeping, told reporters on Tuesday: "It is our hope that there can be a deployment of up to 3,500 troops within 10 days to two weeks."

"That would be ideal to help consolidate the cessation of hostilities and start the process of withdrawal and of deployment of the Lebanese forces as foreseen in the resolution."

Rules of engagement

While several European Union nations have expressed interest in contributing troops, they are waiting to see what France - which is expected to provide the backbone of the contingent - will do before making any firm commitments.

On Wednesday Philippe Douste-Blazy, the French foreign minister, met his Lebanese counterpart Fawzi Sallukh in Beirut to plan France's role in the UN mission.

"France is ready to participate in a strengthened UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon), but the Lebanese army should deploy in southern



The UN has an observation force in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL.

Lebanon first," he said after the meeting.

"France considers that it is indispensable that many other countries participate in this strengthened UNIFIL," he said.

In addition to the Europeans, Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia are potential troop contributors.

"The French would like to know what others are prepared to do and the others would like to know what the French are prepared to do," a UN official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the delicacy of the talks.

About 40 nations interested in contributing soldiers to the new UN force are meeting on Thursday to hear

the rules of engagement.

Israeli officials said that the Israeli army plans to withdraw from southern Lebanon in seven to 10 days and to hand over some of its forward positions to UN troops within 48 hours.

However on Wednesday Dan Halutz, chief of staff of Israel's army, reportedly said Israel would stay in the border zone until an international force deployed, "even if it takes months".

The mission

The first step for UN troops is to consolidate the current shaky truce and help set up the phased withdrawal of Israeli troops as the Lebanese army deploys some of its 15,000 soldiers, with the support of the 2,000 member

UN observation force known as UNIFIL.

A UN official said that the next step is to try to create a demilitarised zone between the Israeli border and the Litani river, some 20km north, after the Lebanese government deploys its troops in the south.

Once the Lebanese army controls most of the south, the aim is to implement a September 2004 resolution, which calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah.

This is to be done by the Lebanese army, assisted by UN troops. But Elias al-Murr, the defence minister of Lebanon, said the army would not disarm Hezbollah.

Source: Al-Jazeera

Rich and poor countries alike face water crisis



A Somali boy drinks water during a drought, March 29, 2006. Rich countries have to make drastic changes to policies if they are to avoid the water crisis that is facing poorer nations, the WWF environmental organization said on Wednesday.

GENEVA (Reuters) — Rich countries have to make drastic changes to policies if they are to avoid the water crisis that is facing poorer nations, the WWF environmental organization said on Wednesday.

In a survey of the situation across the industrialised world, it said many cities were already losing the battle to maintain water supplies as governments talked about conservation but failed to implement their pledges.

"Supporting large-scale industry and growing populations using water at high rates has come close to exhausting the water supplies of some First World cities and is a looming threat for many, if not most, others," the report warned.

It suggested that agriculture in the richer countries should have to pay more for water and be held responsible more actively for its efficient use and for managing wastes, like salt, especially in intensive livestock farming.

From Seville in Spain to Sacramento in California and Sydney in Australia, the report said, water had become a key political issue at local, regional and national levels as climate change and loss of wetlands dramatically reduce supplies.

"At the rhetoric level, it is now generally accepted in the developed world that water must be used more efficiently and that water must be made available again to the environment in sufficient quantity for natural systems to function.

"Many countries also recognize that extensive -- and very expensive -

- repairs are required to reduce some of the damage inflicted on water systems and catchments in the past," it said.

But it added: "Putting the rhetoric into practice in the face of habitual practices and intense lobbying by vested interests has been very difficult."

In Europe, the report said, countries around the Atlantic are suffering from recurring droughts, while in the Mediterranean region water resources were being depleted by the boom in tourism and irrigated agriculture.

In Australia, already the world's driest continent, salinity had become a major threat to a large proportion of key farming areas, while in the United States wide areas were using substantially more water than could be naturally replenished.

Even in Japan with its high rainfall, contamination of water supplies had become a serious issue.

The overall picture, the WWF said, would only get worse in coming years as global warming brought lower rainfall and increased evaporation of water and changed the pattern of snow melting from mountain areas.

The report proposed seven ways to tackle the problem:

conserving catchments and wetlands; balancing conservation and consumption; changing attitudes to water; repairing aging infrastructure; increase charges to farmers for water use; reduce water contamination; and more study of water systems.

Hundreds dead in Ethiopia floods

Up to 700 people are now feared dead after heavy rains caused devastating floods in Ethiopia.

Thousands of people desperately in need of food and shelter are stranded in remote regions of the country that have been cut off by the severe flooding.

In the south, where the Omo river burst its banks on Sunday the situation is critical, state TV reported. At least 194 bodies have been recovered and 6,000 people need urgent help.

"Two army helicopters and 14 motorboats have been deployed to evacuate up to 6,000 people marooned by the floods," it said. "Bad weather has been hampering rescuers."

The heavy rains follow a period of prolonged drought.

The Dechatu river in the east burst its banks last week killing 254 people; another 250 are missing and feared dead.

Death toll could rise

Officials and aid workers have said that

the toll could increase significantly due to difficulties reaching the worst affected regions.

There are fears a third river, the Awash, could soon burst its banks. About 7,000 people living near to the river are being evacuated.

Heavy rains in the highland regions between June and August frequently cause floods in lowland areas of Ethiopia.

Aid workers have said that the situation has been made worse by land cultivation, deforestation and overgrazing in recent years.

Paulette Jones, spokeswoman for the World Food Programme (WFP), said: "The rivers in Ethiopia have less capacity to hold as much water as they did years before, because they are being filled up with silt."

"It takes less intensity of rainfall ... to make a river in any particular part of the country overflow."

Source: Al-Jazeera



Thousands need emergency help after rivers burst their banks.

Baghdad bomb attack kills eight

At least eight people have been killed and 28 wounded by a bomb in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, security officials have said.

The explosion happened in a crowded area of the Nahda district to the east of the city.

All the dead in the bombing are reported to be civilians.

US and Iraqi forces say they have been working to clean up some areas of the capital as part of a new move to stop insurgent violence.

Washington has sent more US soldiers to Baghdad to aid the mission.

Basra attack

Wednesday's bomb in Baghdad is reported to have hit a small market.

"The bomb exploded beside those people who were just here to earn their

living. They were just selling junk," one man, Mohamed Karin, told Reuters news agency.

"An old man with his two kids were killed. What did they do? They were innocent," he said.

In other developments:

- In Basra in the south, armed groups attacked the city council, in what reports say may be a move to avenge a tribal leader killed on Tuesday

- Police say they have killed six insurgents in the northern city of Mosul

On Tuesday, nine Iraqis were killed in a suicide bomb attack on an office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in Mosul.

Source: BBC

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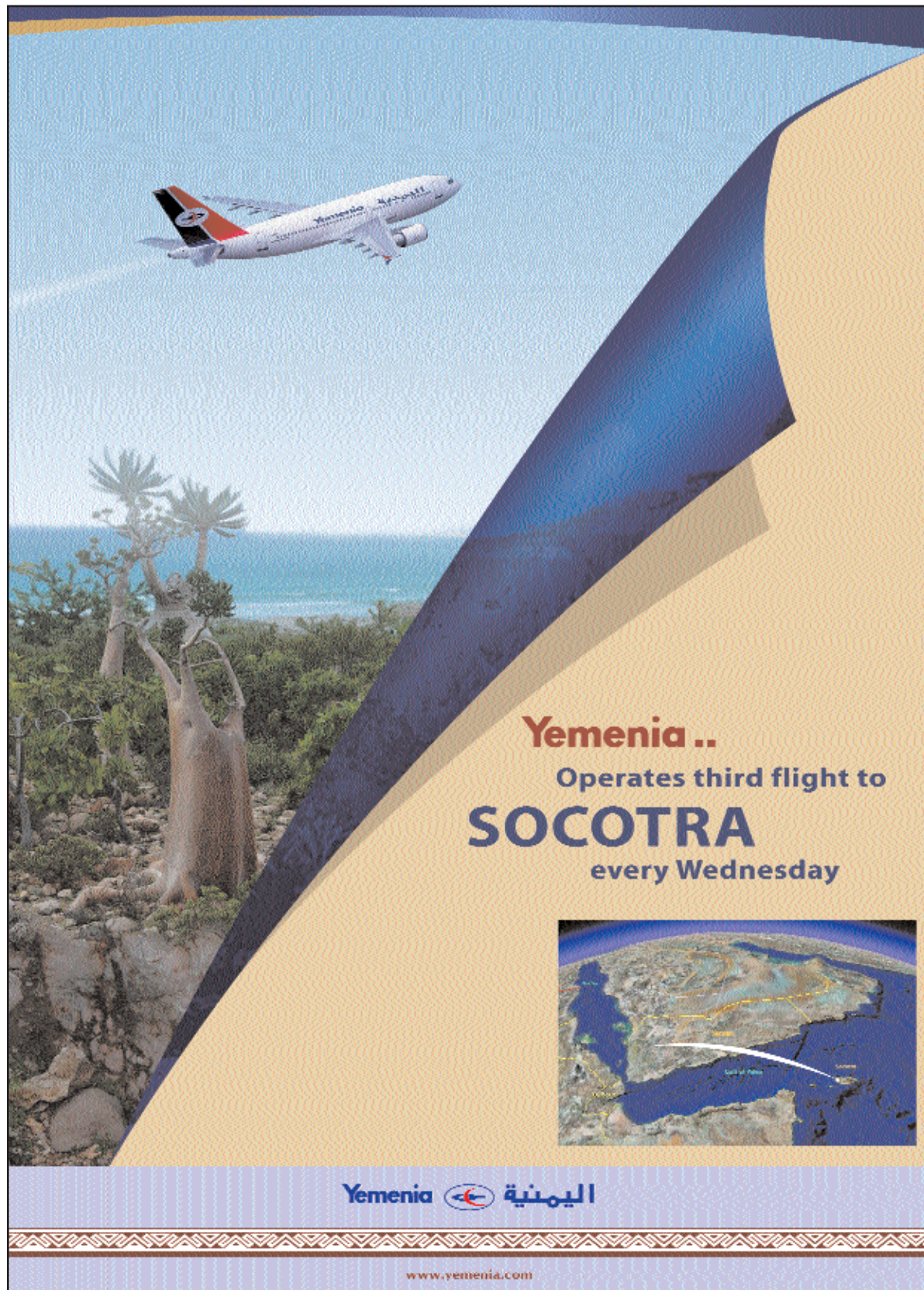
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Yemeni elections: A historical look

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

President Ali Abdullah Saleh declared his previous resolution regarding his intention not to nominate himself for a new term while celebrating his 27th anniversary in power, which he assumed July 17, 1978. Now, after 28 years in power, Saleh is running in the upcoming presidential elections, seeking a new seven-year term. If he wins, his reign will extend to 35 years, thus making him the first republican president to rule for that long, and he would become the second Yemeni ruler to spend that long in office, after Imam Yahya Hamid Al-Din.

Succeeding his father, Imam Yahya ruled Yemen from 1904, when Turkish Othman forces left Yemen, and remained in power until assassinated in 1948.

According to the newly amended Yemeni Constitution, no Yemeni president should remain in power more than two seven-year terms and he should come to power via impartial and direct elections.

Yemen witnessed its first presidential election in 1999, wherein President Saleh ran against General People's Congress (GPC) member, Najeeb Qahtan Al-Sha'abi. Saleh achieved an overwhelming victory over his rival. Still, he has the right to run for a new term, to be his last.

Yemen in the democratic age

The first free elections in North Yemen since the outbreak of the Sept. 26, 1962 revolution were conducted in 1988 under Saleh's regime, as citizens directly elected Consultative Council members. Despite the fact that the Yemeni field was filled with political streams with different trends, Yemen's Constitution didn't allow any partisan or political polarity. It was considered

taboo, for which the law provided punishment at that time.

Following Yemen's May 22, 1990 unification, political polarity was adopted and voting on the republic's constitution was conducted later. Among other items, the new constitution adopted the principle of partisan and political polarity and peaceful transfer of power under a regime raising the slogan of democracy and exerting efforts to achieve it. Democracy is citizens' option and an expression of their wish, as dictated in the Sept. 26 revolution's goals.

The first parliamentary elections were held in 1993 and are considered the best elections Yemen thus far has witnessed because there was a fair amount of impartiality and neutrality. This fair election led to balance between the competing political powers and upon these results, a triple coalition government was formed - involving the GPC, the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and the Islah (reform) party - becoming the second government formed following Yemeni unification.

A new round of parliamentary elections was conducted in 1997, but the political situation had changed greatly, as the YSP was sidelined following Yemen's 1994 civil war. Thus, the YSP became an opposition party and this was its first experience outside of power since its 1979 founding in South Yemen.

The YSP decided to boycott the 1997 parliamentary elections because it was busy rearranging its internal structure. Islah was the first party to announce that its candidate in the 1999 presidential election was President Saleh himself, as the party was a GPC ally at that time.

Another parliamentary round was conducted in 2003, with all political powers - whether authority or opposition - participating in it. In this election, the GPC achieved an overwhelming majority and the YSP returned to Parliament with seven seats, while Islah

was set back, though it had achieved considerable success before.

Sept. 2006 election

In the aforementioned elections (1993, 1997, 1999, 2003), the contest was confined to the competing political parties, while the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) played the role of judge in those competitions.

The situation now is different than in the past, as the SCER has been reformed. Additionally, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) since have come into existence and it's the first time they've united and agreed to nominate a single candidate to run against President Saleh in the upcoming Sept. 20 presidential election.

From the election law:

Item 112: The presidential term is to be seven years, beginning from the date upon which the president takes the oath. It's impermissible for anyone to hold the presidency for more than two seven-year terms.

Item 113: If the parliamentary term expires at the same time the presidential term ends, then the president will continue his job until parliamentary elections are held and the new council meets. The new president is to be elected within 60 days of the first day on which the new council meets.

Item 114: Ninety days prior to the presidential term's expiration, the new procedures for electing a new president will take effect and he should be elected a week before the 90 days end. If this period ends without electing a new president, then under parliamentary authorization, the ex-president is to remain in his job for a period not exceeding 90 days. This period can be prolonged in the event of war, natural catastrophe or any other situation wherein conducting elections is impossible.



Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum premises.

Item 115: If the president of the republic wishes to resign, he should tender a justified resignation to Parliament, whose resolution to accept the resignation should be made with an overwhelming majority. If the resignation isn't accepted, the president then has the right to tender it again within the next three months and Parliament should accept it.

Item 116: When the presidential seat is vacant or he permanently is impaired from working, the tasks of the presidency will be delegated to the vice president for a period of not more than 60 days from the vacancy date. Elections to

choose a new president are to be held during this 60-day term. When the posts of both the president and the vice president are vacant, presidential tasks will be performed by Parliament's presidency board. If Parliament was dissolved, the government then is delegated to perform presidential tasks. The new president is to be elected within no more than 60 days from the date on which the new Parliament's first meeting is held.

Item 117: The law specifies the president's salaries and allocations and he has no right to receive other salaries or premiums.

Item 118: While in power, the presi-

dent isn't allowed to do any other job, whether commercial, industrial or financial. He also has no right to buy or rent anything belonging to the state, even at auction. Further, he has no right to rent or sell any of his belongings to the state.

Item 119: The president is delegated to perform the following tasks:

1. Representing the republic both inside and outside the country.
2. Calling voters in due time to elect Parliament.
3. Calling a general referendum.
4. Authorizing an individual to form a government and issuing a republican decree naming its members.

Electoral symbols of political parties



General People's Congress



Islah Party



Yemeni Socialist Party



Nasserite Unionist People's Organization



Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party



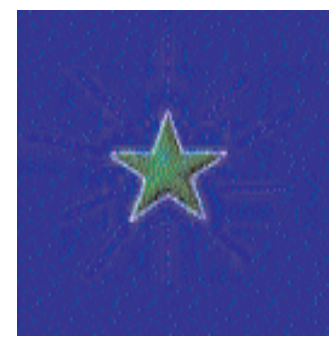
Ba'ath National Arab Socialist Party



Nasserite Democratic Party



Nasserite Reform Party



Federation of Popular Forces



Green Social Party



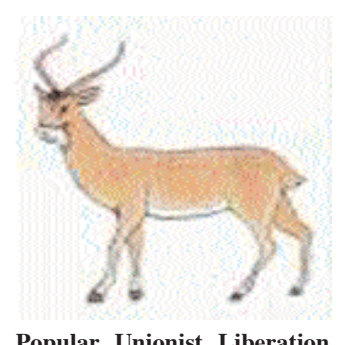
Leagues of Sons of Yemen Party



Yemen Leagues Party



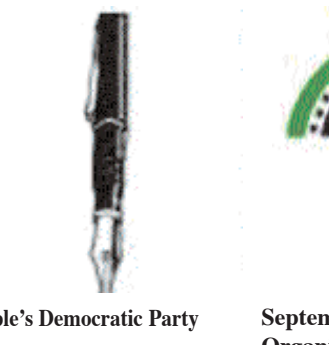
National Social Party



Popular Unionist Liberation Party



Popular Unification Party



People's Democratic Party



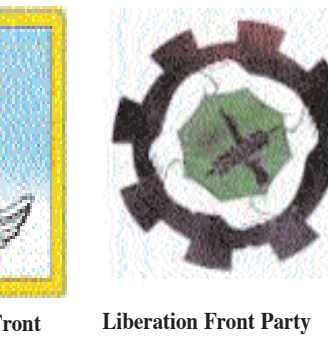
September Democratic Organization



Yemen Unionist Congregation



Popular Forces Democratic Federation



National Democratic Front



Liberation Front Party

Haq Party

Islamic fascism of Bushism!

Day by day American president George Bush affirms that he uses the war on terror as a pretext to conceal his real intentions for humiliating Arabs and Muslims, intimidating them and changing them to servants of the schemes of American-Israeli domination.



By: Abdul-Bari Atwan

Christian fascism. It is really regrettable that there are no laws condemning all those who instigate hatred against the Muslims, as is the case with the Jews, because now the Muslims have become like a low wall that no one defends. Their leaders have surrendered to the American terror, preferring to remain safe with their greed of staying in power.

By describing the alleged attempt to blow up British civilian airplanes en route to America, revealed in a dubious way a few days ago, as part of the war with Islamist fascists reflexes his extent of hatred of the Islamic religion and its followers out of extreme religious and racist contempt.

It is a description never used by any western official since the crusade wars, but it's used again now. President Bush announced he was waging a crusade against the terrorists in Afghanistan in retaliation to the victims of the events of September 11. He completely meant what he said and it was not a slip of the tongue as some of his aides tried to suggest to the media in order to avoid provoking the Arab and Islamic streets against America. It was the beginning of America's wars in the region.

The American administration destroyed Afghanistan as it used highly destructive bombs and then did the same in Iraq. Nevertheless no Arab or Muslim writer or official said these wars were launched against them by

We condemn all forms of Islamic

extremism as we strongly condemn all the acts of killing civilians as they are considered terrorism. We, on the other hand, strongly condemn the terror created by the American government, leader of the free world, and the Israeli government, that calls itself as the only democracy in the region, are perpetrating. We can see the ugly face of this terror in the pictures of infants and their pure dead bodies, killed and buried under the rubbles of demolished houses in Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq.

The talk of the American president Bush on Islamic fascism, his support of the Israeli aggression to destroy Lebanon, the oldest democratic state and one of the most prominent civilization centers in the region, the bloody practices of his troops in Iraq and their violation of human rights and raping honorable Iraqi women, all are extremism. These brutal and inhuman acts expand the circle of terror and expose innocent lives to danger.

I disbelieve all that was said about the planes operation revealed on Thursday the by the British Home Secretary. We find it imperative to raise question marks about it and its timing.

If the operation was aimed at committing collective massacres and requires the highest degree of security preparations in both Britain and the United States, how does Blair insist to go ahead in his vacation plan in the Caribbean islands and Bush continues enjoying his holiday without cutting it to face this terror that he described as

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worse than that of September 11?

Why did British security authorities, who were following up those involved in the operation since last December, disclose only a few days ago? Surely the timing of disclosure is linked to the attitude of the British public with a majority opposing the Blair-Bush policy of supporting the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and its opposition of the issue of any resolution by the Security Council for immediate ceasefire.

It is quite obvious that those who fabricated the question of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq to justify killing hundreds of thousands of innocent can now fabricate the question of planes and kidnapping and the attempt to blow them up. Even if the conspiracy is true, the responsible ones for it are basically Bush and his ally Blair and their fascist policies, embodied in the ugliest images in the Arab and Islamic countries.

The axis of fascist evil that is destroying the world is President Bush, his ally Blair and the Jewish Ulmert. The difference between it and the al-Qaeda organization is that the fundamentalist organization does not claim democracy or the leadership of the free world and does not say it represents western values in justice, equality and human rights.

Abdul-Bari Atwan is a well-known writer and politician. He is the Chief Editor of the famous London-based Arabic language newspaper, Al-Quds Al-Arabi.

COMMON SENSE

Policy based on arrogance can backfire

The new situation created by this latest war on Lebanon is bound to have an enduring effect on the region, which no one can deny and moreover the prospects of which no one can visualize as of yet. For one thing the long endurance of Hezbollah amidst all the ugly and gory efforts of Israel to crush it – which only succeeded in destroying Lebanon instead – threw away a thousand and one myths that Israel has relied on for its very existence and for fooling the world that it is the true representative of western civilization and progressive social and political thought in the region, not to mention its hold on supernatural grandeur of military might in the area (No. 5 in the world). Efforts to portray this as somewhat similar to the United States defeat in Vietnam may be misleading in several ways. First of all, Israel is a fairly recent robbery of real estate and the fight in Lebanon is only part of an ongoing struggle to right a recently imposed wrong. For another, the battles are taking place in the very area of the real estate that is subject to dispute and not an “overseas” military engagement. This in itself is indeed a serious challenge to Israel's past abilities to project Israel's “wars of survival” on turf that is not a part of Israel proper (1948 Israel) and come out unscathed, or rather a winner.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Hezbollah has indeed shown that Israel, despite all its claims to power and might is no more than a timid thief seeking to project itself as a mighty gangster that can impose itself in the region through terror and hold on elements of sheer superficial might. Albeit this might have proven vulnerable by the simplest of means and an excellent use of intellect and intelligence that Hezbollah has managed to acquire in a very short time frame of twenty-three years since its establishment.

Furthermore all the myths on Israel being a model democracy and advocate of human rights have been shattered by another even smaller democracy next to it, which indeed had proven democratic institutions and a well entrenched civil society that in fact helped to save Lebanon from the calamities that Israel tried to impose on it rather clumsily, as even some Israelis have noted on more than one corner of the Israeli media. Let us not forget that Hezbollah was born out of this tiny democracy and this civil society that has flourished in Lebanon.

The phenomenon that is Hezbollah should never be taken so lightly now that the most powerful military machine in the region failed to even dent its capacity for giving Israel more than just a “hard time”. On top of showing that the imbalance of the Arab World vs. Israel has been now laid to rest. A small element to which even some of the established states in the former are not even willing to recognize, has challenged not just the might and power that Israel likes to have everybody thinks it has, but also the fallacy of power and influence these states like to think they have. Moreover Hezbollah has projected itself as the true champion of the “Arab cause” that its leaders have literally abandoned and thus has become a successful claimant to the leadership vacuum that has dominated the Arab World for the last three decades. Although Hassan Nasrallah (Nasrallah in many media circles), in his desire to maintain a modest posture refuses to openly aspire for such stature, he has in fact won it by capturing the hearts of not only the majority of people in the Arab World, but the Moslem World as well. The indefatigable leader of Hezbollah has even succeeded in claiming a niche in the hearts of Christian Arabs in Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states where there are Gentile minorities, for his moderation and appreciation of their affinity to their Arab nationalist aspirations, which should take in all Arabs regardless of their religious affiliation.

An interesting hypothesis has also evolved out of this senseless and mind-boggling insistence by Israel that it can always impose the will of its democratic military and political establishment and that of the international Zionist establishment that backs it. Could it be that the United States may have grown really weary of Israel's efforts to steer its own course in the world, especially after having railroaded the former in a cavalcade of ugly violence in Iraq, and a long endless tunnel that: the so called “war on terror”. Perhaps the Americans have decided that it is about time that Israel starts to get a taste of its own medicine, and thus goaded Israel into the Lebanese-Hezbollah trap and the thus kept the fire burning for more than a month before finally softening its stance in the UN Security Council. In discussing this hypothesis with many other opinion makers in the Arab World, it was not hard for many to see the sensible logic that this could have. Following the Mearshiemer and Walt Study of the Israeli Lobby, such thinking should not be considered far-fetched.

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

Realizing the democratic dream in Yemen

The great majority of Arab journalists are adhering to a dear dream. Whenever these journalists think the day of realizing that dream is approaching, there come surprising events to tell them that the dream remains far-fetched. Many times, these dreamers repeat the question when they find an Arab president stepping down from the presidential seat peacefully and of his own will.



By: Ali Al-Sarari

When Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced last year that he intended not to nominate himself for a new presidential tenure, such journalists' hopes recovered and they unleashed phrases of praise for Yemen and its president, becoming assured that the miracle at last would be realized. For his part, Saleh helped them by repeated statements and stances, thereby removing any hesitance from their feelings. Thus, they continued praising

acceptance of being the candidate for the party, which he had accused of corruption just a few hours before his decision.

At that moment, the feeling of admiration for the Yemeni president turned to anger and journalists began to criticize him, returning him to the list of Arab leaders from whom no hope is expected. Nevertheless, such resentful feelings distinguished Saleh from his counterparts. He was able to play on them as well as deceive and embarrass the journalists before their readers, some of whom haven't forgiven them-

selves for becoming victims of an Arab leader's deceit.

The drama of demonstrations didn't convince the journalists that the Yemeni people's pressure was effective in forcing Saleh to rescind his decision. Such drama was unbelievable since it is not the first presidential lie in the history of the Arab world. Previously, Iraqi president Saddam Hussein forced Iraqis to celebrate his victory in the “Mother of Battles” for 13 years, whereas Iraqis fully knew that their army left Kuwait defeated and such victory was a defeat placing Iraqis under blockade and humiliating international inspection.

It's surely Arab journalists who believed in good will while trying to convince their readership of the seriousness of Saleh's determination not to nominate himself. They now suffer sorrow and regret for that belief. Such journalists may stop covering Yemeni affairs. Such a stance would be disastrous for those afflicted by corruption and despotism and would be a second mistake committed by honorable individuals respecting their mission in life.

I think those Arab journalists should continue writing about Yemeni affairs and casting light upon the tragic facts imposed on its population. This would help deprive some mercenary journalists in the Arab press, who always draw falsely beautiful images of Yemen. Such mercenary journalists fill their pockets with money given to them by Yemeni authorities.

Being interested in Yemeni affairs is very important these days because there are now preparations to hold presidential and local elections in September. It's an exceptional opportunity for Arab journalists to become acquainted with the reality of Yemen's political experiment and the type of allowable democratic practices.

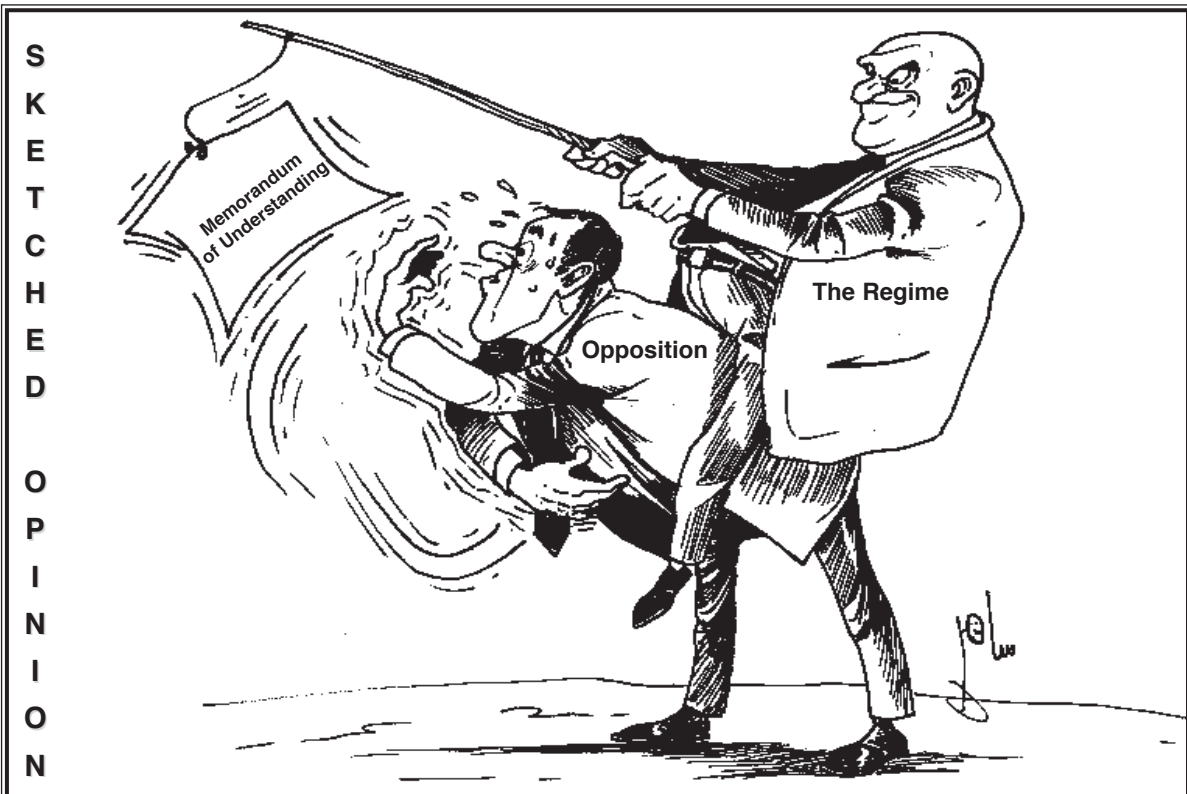
Nevertheless, Yemeni democracy isn't a complete void. A solid opposition has grown up and placed the struggle to change democracy from nominal to actual as a main part of its priorities. Such opposition has managed to disclose authorities' entire volume of violations against the law and the constitution, especially regarding managing and organizing the electoral process.

Opposition has been able to force authorities to sign an agreement of principles, the implementation of which would see holding free and honorable elections. These principles are commitments the government must carry out. Such developments have been met with good response by international organizations working in Yemen and donor country embassies in Sana'a. These parties will evaluate the upcoming Yemeni elections according to the extent of implementing the agreement of principles.

Here's where the Arab press can play its role in the effort toward victory for Yemeni democracy by monitoring the electoral process, thus helping to protect it against violations and interference. In this way, the Arab press could be a partner in building democracy in Yemen, not just simply encouraging it.

To those Arab journalists who've been disappointed, I say don't repent but rather open your eyes wide upon Yemen because it deserves it.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.



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Letters to the Editor

Sheikhs against Hezbollah

One cannot believe what these Sheikhs are saying! There ignorant stance is totally pro-Zionism. How can a person be a Muslim and at the same time be an enemy to those faithful Mujahideen of the glorious and victorious Hezbollah. This is a paradox!

As to the information about Iraq, they are wrong, because there is no real conflict between Sunni and Shia but there is a major Zion-West conspiracy

to kindle civil war in this country. As an Iraqi, I am sure of this opinion. Shia and Sunni have lived together for about fourteen centuries in Iraq. So we must be aware of the plans and plots against the Muslim World, otherwise we become a tool to fulfill our enemy's plots! Then what can we answer the Holly Prophet and our All Mighty God? How will these Sheikhs answer to God?

Forat Ali
forat@hotmail.com

Young Muslims in Britain Is "Eurabia" inevitable?

What is it that makes young Muslims in the West susceptible to radicalism? What is it about the experience of the West's rising generation of Muslims that leads a small minority to see violence as a solution to their economic and political dilemmas, and suicide as their reward and salvation?

By: Mai Yamani

What is it that makes young Muslims in the West susceptible to radicalism? What is it about the experience of the West's rising generation of Muslims that leads a small minority to see violence as a solution to their economic and political dilemmas, and suicide as their reward and salvation? By Mai Yamani

Britain, which will soon mark the anniversary of last year's bombings in London, provides a test case for seeking answers to these questions. For young British Muslims, our globalized world challenges key beliefs, destabilizing their identity and thus encouraging a defensive response.

British citizenship, of course, guarantees freedom of expression and minority rights, and young Muslims take full advantage of this. Yet they are using this freedom to deepen family and cultural ties to the closed world of their inherited Muslim identity, particularly its politics.

Muslims under attack

In practice, this means that young Muslims are utterly preoccupied with

events in the Arab and Muslim world. They see what we see: a region where autocratic countries seem corrupt and paralyzed. But they also see an unprecedented level of hostility from the West, with regime after regime seeming to be either in peril or facing chaos.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and now Iran: all seem to be under attack as part of the "global war on terror." As a result, the West's strategic choices appear inherently anti-Islamic to countless of its young Muslims.

This preoccupation with the Middle East is at the heart of young Muslims' politics in British universities, mosques, and websites. Although most do not support Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf, Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, or the al-Saud family, they see hypocrisy in Western criticism of these leaders that is designed to manipulate and marginalize – after all, the West does not really want to push these regimes too far.

Sense of a vast conspiracy against Muslims

Access to the Internet, satellite television, and travel is drawing these young Muslims into a community that shares their vision and their rage. So technology is heightening the tensions that exist

Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, and now Iran: all seem to be under attack as part of the "global war on terror." As a result, the West's strategic choices appear inherently anti-Islamic to countless of its young Muslims.

between the mechanics of a modern free society and the sense of a vast conspiracy against Muslims.

This has led to a schism between the hopes young Muslims have for successful lives in the West and their aspirations for their Muslim brothers and sisters, who have suffered so many terrible disappointments.

As young Muslims in Britain (and across the West) try to maneuver between the various, and often conflicting, aspects of their identity, three clear tendencies have emerged.

- A secular and pragmatic response, which makes Islam a private matter; A conservative stance that reconciles cultural, religious, and familial ties with 'Britishness';

- A radical response to the perceived collision between the foreign policies of their new homelands and the welfare of the Islamic world.

- Messianic waves from the Middle East, reaching both schools and mosques, help draw young Muslims into radicalism. One such wave is created by the headline Saudi/Wahhabi education system, which is based on the concept of al-wala' wa al bara' , loyalty to the system and hostility to the infidels.

This curriculum, exported Westward



Muslims in the West need to believe that democratic principles are respected abroad and applied equally at home, says Mai Yamani

by fat Saudi subsidies, is heavily punctuated with denunciations of the infidels and calls to jihad. Designed to secure the legitimacy of the Saudi monarchy at home, it is indoctrinating young Western Muslims with values antithetical to open and free societies.

Defining Muslims on the basis of their religion

Britain's government is beginning to recognize the danger, and is trying to clamp down on schools and mosques that spread hate. Unfortunately, such repression has been merely reactive and short-sighted, with no clear long-term vision about the nature of Islamic education in the West. Thus, it merely feeds young Muslims' fears that they are being singled out for persecution.

One difficulty with the British government's response is that it classifies all Muslims as just that: Muslim. By defining people on the basis of their religion, nuances – of national identity or of the degree of orthodoxy – are lost. This

plays into the hands of radicals, because it makes Islam the central element of identity.

This process, indeed, is echoed in the 22 Arab countries, where religious orthodoxy rules out any significant liberal political opposition. In such circumstances, the Mosque becomes the sole public space in which people can voice political views. Politicization of the mosque has, sadly, also become the norm in Britain.

Islamic radicalization and terror need not continue to flourish in the West. Regardless of their disappointments with the Western countries' foreign policy, young Muslims have been exposed to their undeniable democratic spirit.

Islamic radicalization and terror need not continue to flourish in the West. Regardless of their disappointments with the Western countries' foreign poli-

cy, young Muslims have been exposed to their undeniable democratic spirit.

They may now seek a deeper connection to their Muslim identity, but, having learned to question authority, they are unlikely to accept rigid parental or Islamic traditions. Like other young people around them, they want to be the agents of their own destiny.

This desire is changing Islam, especially in the West. The basic texts remain the same, but their interpretation, and the application of religion in people's lives, has not. Young Muslims, particularly in the West, are setting an example that is slowly being echoed in the Middle East, despite massive state repression.

The task for Western policymakers is to recognize the interconnection of foreign and domestic policies. They must become serious about backing legitimate democratic representation in Muslim countries, for only then will Western policy seem less hypocritical. They must also ensure that career choices are as open to their Muslim citizens as they are to everyone else.

In short, young Muslims in the West need to believe that democratic principles are respected abroad and applied equally at home. Only when such a belief becomes general will despair stop fueling terrorism, and suicide bombing come to be viewed as an obscene calling.

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The author of "Cradle of Islam", is a Senior Research fellow at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Jewish and Arab women unite against war

By: Brenda Gazzar

Haifa - In recent weeks, Abir Kopty and Hannah Safran have demonstrated nearly every day against Israel's conflict in Lebanon and Gaza. Even as the dreaded sirens have sounded warning of Hezbollah rocket attacks, Kopty, an Israeli Arab, and Safran, an Israeli Jew, remained on the streets in this northern city not far from the Lebanese border to urge their government to stop the war, enter into negotiations and exchange prisoners.

As founding members of Women Against War, formed a few days after Israel's current conflict with Hezbollah began, the two longtime peace activists are among a small, but dedicated, cadre of women trying to end the latest wave of violence threatening to consume the entire region.

"It's not about blame. It's about stopping this war", said Kopty, a spokeswoman for an Israeli human rights organization that advocates for Arab citizens in the country. "We don't want to see any citizens on [either side] killed because of an avoidable war. There is no sense in that."

Israel launched a limited but potent

military operation in Lebanon after Hezbollah fired rockets on northern Israeli towns on July 12, kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and killed three others in a raid along the Lebanese border. Hezbollah officials claimed they captured the soldiers in an effort to secure the release of Lebanese prisoners held in Israeli jails from previous conflicts.

Hezbollah, an Islamist Shiite organization in Lebanon that has parliament members and ministers in the government, is considered a terrorist group by Israel and the United States but is lauded as a legitimate resistance organization by many in the Arab world, who credit it with getting Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon in 2000 after more than two decades of occupation.

As of Thursday, the widening conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has claimed as many as 900 Lebanese lives—mostly civilians—according to Lebanese government officials, and more than 60 Israelis, including 28 civilians. The United Nations Children's Fund estimates that roughly one-third of those killed in Lebanon have been children.

On Wednesday, Israel sent 8,000 troops into southern Lebanon as part of a massive new ground attack aimed at removing Hezbollah combatants from the border as the radical Islamist group

stepped up its rocket attacks on northern Israeli cities.

While the majority of Israeli citizens support the country's military operation against Hezbollah, Kopty and Safran say Israel's activities in Lebanon and Gaza and Hezbollah's continuous shelling of northern Israeli towns are too ruinous.

Safran says she has received death threats for expressing her views on the current conflict.

She and Kopty helped organize a July 29 anti-war march in Tel Aviv sponsored by women's peace groups that organizers say attracted as many as 3,000 people. Protesters began marching at Rabin Square, holding up signs that said "Stop Killing Citizens" and "Exchange Prisoners Now" while a few Israeli supporters shouted "traitors" and clashed with participants.

In addition to the women holding near-daily protests in Haifa, numerous other women's groups have held peace vigils and demonstrations around the country.

"Without this, I don't have a life. I am scared. I am desperate", said Safran, 56, who was making anti-war signs in Hebrew, Arabic and English at a women's centre in Haifa days before the July 29 protest. "This is what gives me the ability to cope, the hope that we can

change, that our life has meaning."

Another group, the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace, issued an urgent appeal at its July 13 meeting in Athens to reject the use of force in Gaza, Israel and Lebanon.

The appeal called on the Middle East Quartet—the United States, Britain, Russia and the United Nations, which are mediating the Israeli-Palestinian peace process—to intervene immediately to stop the fighting and dispatch special envoys, including women, to mediate a truce and prisoner exchange, lead the parties back to political negotiations and address the root issues of the conflict. Their statement warned that this was the last chance for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

"Civilians, mainly women and children, are paying the price for this vicious cycle of retaliation and counter-retaliation", the appeal said. "This is a time of great danger. . . If no action is taken today, tomorrow will be too late."

The International Women's Commission, created under the auspices of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, includes elected officials, academics and those from civil society who plan to meet with heads of state in the U.N. General Assembly in

September. Members also plan to appear at the United Nations Security Council in October when Security Council Resolution 1325, which calls for the greater involvement of women in conflict resolution and peace negotiations, is discussed.

"I would say we are really heavily involved in: a) trying to end the fighting and b) trying to redraw attention to the core issue of what is going on, which we contend is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict", said Naomi Chazan, an Israeli commission member and former deputy speaker of the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

Hezbollah, she said, is using Israeli-Palestinian troubles to promote its own agenda, which includes expanding radical Islam, destroying Israel and weakening the United States. This distorts the Israeli-Palestinian issue, Chazan said. While Hezbollah and its allies want to destroy Israel, Palestinians and moderate Arab states want to find a way of achieving a comprehensive settlement, she said.

Chazan's Palestinian colleague in the commission, Lama Hourani, said life has been especially difficult in the Gaza Strip since late June, when Israel launched a military operation following the kidnapping of a soldier. According to

the Palestinian Ministry of Health, more than 180 people have been killed in Gaza since the start of the operation, including 78 children. Israeli officials say their operations there are aimed at hurting terror organizations, led by Hamas, and rocket-launching cells.

Hourani, the Gaza coordinator of the Palestinian Working Women Society for Development, is living with irregular electricity and air conditioning since a major power station was hit several weeks ago by an Israeli strike. Since Hamas was elected as the majority party in the Palestinian parliament in March, she said, an international embargo has prevented Palestinian Authority employees from getting paid for several months. In addition, Hourani said she and other Gaza Strip residents are subjected to strict closures, daily bombardment, shelling, raids and killing.

"It's a terrible life", she said. "I don't wish anyone, even an enemy, to live like this."

Brenda Gazzar is a freelance journalist based in Jerusalem. Women's eNews welcomes your comments on this article through email at editors@womensnews.org. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

It is time for all to turn away from anger and vengeance and seek justice

By: Rev. Munib Younan

Jerusalem - As I sit in Jerusalem watching the military actions and fighting in Lebanon and Gaza and the West Bank, I feel disorientated. I am not sure if I am in a state of shock, stunned by surprise, or simply overwhelmed by the enormity of what is going on. It is a time for deep reflection emerging from the ever-growing suffering and destruction.

I ask myself why this is happening. What in fact will be achieved at the end of the day, beyond the obvious: more destruction, more fear, more hatred, more anger and more retaliation on every side? There is no easy answer to this question. We see the people of Haifa and the Galilee fleeing their homes in search of refuge and burying their dead. We see the funerals in Gaza and the children sleeping hungry in the streets. We see a Lebanon which was beginning to stand on its own feet after years of civil

war and conflict once again reduced to rubble with a flood of refugees and displaced persons. In my suffering, I ask, "Why?", as I see blood pooled in the streets without justification.

I am not looking for analytical answers as my heart cries out. I am looking for moral and spiritual answers. Is it not time to move from the logic of war, self-justifying violence and acts of terror? Is it not time for world leaders to repent -- to admit that they have failed to bring a just peace and then to humbly change course?

Instead of life-giving repentance we hear deadly lip service to a false peace: We are battered by initiative after initiative after initiative, all of which are unfulfilled. I ask, where is the repentance that will allow justice to stand and which will liberate all nations from hatred and fear?

It is time to see beyond the smoke and fire that assaults us from every headline, so that the powerful can move from

behind their misplaced self-interest and hear the cries of our children and see the blood shed in the street. The Scriptures are clear, demanding "[j]ustice and only justice..." if we are to live (Deut 16:20).

At this time, with the blood-soaked spectre of dominance and triumph hovering over all of us I fear, as much as I have ever feared anything, that the only "winner" will be political and religious extremism. If we don't change our course and allow ourselves to take the path of justice we will hand over our future to extremists who seek death-laden solutions which will usher in the end of history.

I sit in Jerusalem and my heart is torn to shreds. I feel powerless.

But knowing the presence of the God of Life in all things, I can only cry out that this war must serve to unite all parties to think differently, to act differently -- to stop all military operations, to overcome

hatred, to end the vicious cycle of retaliation, to ensure that no more human life is taken. It is time to negotiate around the unsolved and urgent core issue: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Justice will be served and the conflict ended when we achieve a shared Jerusalem, the respect of the rights of the refugees, two states living side by side in peace and security according to international law. Now is the time to serve justice with action, not words or plans or maps. Such is the path to peace and reconciliation in the Middle East.

This war judges the International Community: in its lowering of the standard of justice, human rights and dignity; in affirming violence as the path to resolving differences; in creating the conditions which have pushed the Arab Christian community to the brink. The international community is accountable to justice for all people, nothing less. The shed blood is a judgment on their failure and is an opportunity to repent

and do what is right.

This is a moral, spiritual and political crisis of global proportions. As a Lutheran Bishop my plea is for all Christians to commit themselves to prayer and fasting to seek God's empowerment in addressing the call to repent and seek justice. This includes urging Christians to go beyond their excellent relief and emergency work to secure the future for a just peace. As a Palestinian mindful of the value of all human life I call on all people of conscience and faith to join in this spiritual act of prayerful fasting so that we can change our hearts and minds and act for an enduring peace. The prophet Isaiah reminds us: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free..." (Isaiah 58:6).

We must reject the idea that we can fight our way to peace and security... we cannot!

Is this not the time, the "kairos

moment" for Israel, Palestine, the United States, Europe and the Arab countries to repent and say we did not hear the Lord's voice lifting up "justice and only justice"? Instead, we led the world into gross injustice at a gut-wrenching cost of human life, freedom and dignity.

In the depths of despair of unremitting destruction and blood shed, we hear God's promise: "Behold I am making all things new". That includes us and the leaders of the world who can "do a new thing" -- repent and seek justice and only justice so all can live...and live abundantly.

Bishop Dr. Munib Younan is Head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, President of the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches and Vice President of the Lutheran World Federation. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).



National Bank Of Yemen

البنك الأهلي اليمني

CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

Dahman RSM Accountants - Auditors - Consultants

P.O. Box 1044 Villa H, Republic of Yemen Comm. of Elections, Washington St., Assi, Sana'a, 51221, Republic of Yemen

REVIEW REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN

We have reviewed the accompanying interim financial statements of the National Bank of Yemen (The Bank) as at 30 June 2006 comprising the balance sheet and the related statements of income, cash flows and changes in owner's equity for the six months then ended.

We conducted our review in accordance with the International Standard on Auditing applicable to review engagements. This Standard requires that we plan and perform the review to obtain moderate assurance as to whether the interim financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying interim financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the significant accounting policies used in preparing the interim financial statements described in note (3) to the financial statements applied on a consistent basis.

Dahman Awadh Dahman RSM

Registered Licensed Accountant No. 384 of Dahman RSM

15 July 2006, Aden, Republic of Yemen

Balance Sheet table showing 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005 figures for Assets and Liabilities.

Liabilities and Owner's Equity table showing details for due to banks, customers' deposits, and capital.

Owner's Equity table showing components like capital, surplus on revaluation of property reserve, and reserves.

Contra Accounts and Other Commitments, net table with 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005 data.

Reviewers' report attached (page 1)

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Statement of Income table for the six months ended 30 June 2006, showing income from banking services, commissions, and operating income.

Statement of Cash Flow table for the six months ended 30 June 2006, detailing operating, investing, and financing activities.

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Statement of Changes in Owner's Equity table for the six months ended 30 June 2006, showing changes in capital, reserves, and profit.

The Bank's Board of Directors, in its meeting held on 8 January 2005, resolved to comply with the instructions of Central Bank of Yemen in its circular no (12) dated 8 December 2004...

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Incorporation and Activities table for the National Bank of Yemen, detailing its establishment in 1969 and current status.

Cash in Hand and Reserve Balances with the Central Bank of Yemen table for 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005.

Statement of Cash Flow table for the six months ended 30 June 2006, showing operating profit and cash equivalents.

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Statement of Changes in Owner's Equity table for the six months ended 30 June 2006, showing capital, reserves, and profit.

The Bank's Board of Directors, in its meeting held on 8 January 2005, resolved to comply with the instructions of Central Bank of Yemen...

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Due from Banks table showing current and total amounts for 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005.

Loans and Advances to Customers and Banks, net of provision table for 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005.

Loans and Advances to Banks table for 30 June 2006, detailing subordinated loans and provisions.

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Available for Sale Investments, Net table for 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005, listing various securities.

The Bank has contributed a sum of USD 300,000 to Yemen Financial Services Company (Closed Shareholding Company) which is being established as a joint venture...

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Income Tax Payable table for 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005.

Owner's Equity table for 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005, detailing authorized capital and reserves.

The difference between the revalued amounts of the freehold land and the buildings and their net book value as at 31 December, 1999 has been credited to owner's equity.

Contra Accounts and Other Commitments, net table for 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005.

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Earnings Per Share table for 2005 and 2006, showing net profit per share and dividends.

Related Party Transactions table for 2005 and 2006, detailing transactions with banks and other entities.

Maturities of Assets and Liabilities table for 30 June 2006, categorized by term to maturity.

Assets and Liabilities table for 30 June 2006, showing cash, loans, and other items.

Liabilities table for 30 June 2006, detailing due to banks and customer deposits.

Contingent Assets and Liabilities table for 30 June 2006, including provisions for various risks.

Significant Foreign Currencies' Positions table for 30 June 2006, listing positions in USD, Euro, and Saudi Riyal.

Owner's Equity table for 30 June 2006 and 31 December 2005, showing capital and reserves.

Capital Commitments table for 30 June 2006, detailing commitments to various parties.

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Dr. Hany El-Bana

Yemen has great potential, so why has it reached this poor state?

International relief organization Islamic Relief (IR) opened its Sana'a office in 2005 and its activities have been present ever since. IR was one of the first relief organizations to provide help and support during the Al-Dhafeer village crisis where a rockslide killed more than 65 people and destroyed 16 houses.

During the recent events in Lebanon, IR reportedly was the only British aid agency that ventured south of Beirut and one of the few international agencies delivering food and relief items in Qana, Tyre, Sidon and other heavily bombarded areas.

During a short visit to Yemen, IR founder Dr. Hany El-Bana spoke about IR and its work in the following exclusive interview. He has a strong viewpoint against qat, as well as a future plan to help farmers stop growing it.

Interview by: Hamdan Dammag
dammagh@hotmail.com

Can you tell us about Islamic Relief?

Headquartered in Birmingham, England, Islamic Relief (IR) is an international relief and development charity working in 35 countries. It was founded in 1984 to serve those in need on the African Horn following the 1982 famine. IR has good partnerships with several Islamic and non-Islamic governments, as well as international organizations and donors like the European Union, the United Nations, Oxfam and the Red Cross.

It is IR's policy to work in various conflict regions like Iraq, Darfur, Chechnya, Kashmir and Palestine.

How did you come up with the idea for IR and were there difficulties?

The idea began when I visited Sudan in Dec. 1982 and saw the devastating situation of residents there following the famine. When I returned to Cairo, I showed my friends some photos I obtained from several charities there and proposed the idea of donating some money to these charities. Some of my relatives began donating small amounts and I still remember a child who donated 20 Egyptian cents.

I managed to collect approximately 1,500 Egyptian pounds, which I took back with me to the UK where I lived. Once in the UK, I again proposed the idea to many people. A friend in Birmingham, who was doing his master's at that time, liked the idea and started helping me.

Our work began at Friday prayers in Islamic community mosques in Eston and Birmingham. We managed to collect some money, which allowed us to open a bank account. We then went out to the streets too.

All of our paperwork was prepared at home on a typewriter. We began distributing leaflets at mosques and places where there were Muslim communities. At that time, we had no office of our own, so we hung a donation box on a Birmingham mosque wall and opened it weekly.

A year later, we managed to rent a small office with a telephone line and a

fax machine. We were so happy and it felt like we had the biggest office in the world.

At that time, did you receive any aid from the British government?



Qat consumes 50 to 60 percent of people's time in Yemen and this is in addition to its other negatives consequences, including medical ones. It costs the government a lot of money to treat these consequences, so maybe it's better to spend money on projects aiming to fight growing and chewing qat.

No, we began receiving aid in 1993. We depended on donations because this type of work wasn't common in mosques at that time. We sometimes were prohibited from distributing leaflets or even forced to leave where

we were operating. However, people afterward began appreciating our efforts and becoming used to it.

I can say that in 1985, I was the first person in the UK to stand on the street asking for donations. Nowadays, it's a very common phenomenon and there are thousands of beggars.

Why did you choose Yemen for one of your offices?

Well, the question actually should be why were we so late in opening an office in Yemen? Yemen is an important member of the IR family for several reasons, the most important of which are its geographical location and its human resources. In this regard, I'd like to say that Yemen has the capability of producing effective human resources if they receive efficient training. This is in addition to Yemen's brilliant history in

the east and west.

Why has Yemen reached this poor state when it's a country rich in resources, labor and culture?

Furthermore, Yemen has the future potential of becoming one of the most important countries playing a major role in supporting relief work around the world.

You have a strong viewpoint against qat. Can you tell us about it?

Yes, it's true. I'm not a religious scholar to prohibit qat, but I can talk about it from a social point of view. I can tell you that chewing qat is a serious waste of time. Whatever has been said about qat, I can tell you that we can't build a strong economy in any country based on wasting time while gaining fast profit from marketing and consuming qat. Much agricultural land has been ruined by growing qat instead of other crops that could be exported. The economic process of selling qat is a vicious cycle benefiting only a small community in society. I'm just wondering if half a man's income goes to buying qat, how on earth can he support his family?

Nevertheless, I think people still aren't paying enough attention to the importance of the time-wasting factor when they talk about qat. How many hours are spent working compared to those spent chewing qat?

I briefly visited the Great Mosque in the Old City of Sana'a one Friday and I was so impressed by the architecture of the mosque and the old city. Approximately 500 men were gathered to pray, but I didn't understand why because it was still noon. My companions then told me the men were performing the afternoon prayers so they wouldn't miss afternoon qat sessions.

Qat consumes 50 to 60 percent of people's time in Yemen and this is in addition to its other negatives consequences, including medical ones. It costs the government a lot of money to treat these consequences, so maybe it's better to spend money on projects aiming to fight growing and chewing qat.

Can IR help this problem?

Yes, we're trying to think of a way to limit qat usage. We're trying to provide alternatives by convincing a group of farmers to replace qat with other crops or even raise animals. It will be something like a pilot study, so if we succeed in one area, the government may try to implement it in others.

The idea simply is to create a small



Dr. Hany El-Bana (right) talking to the Managing Editor of Yemen Times.

from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt.

The Yemeni side responded positively, especially those from civil defence and it was clear to us that Yemen's government needed such a training course. Yemen's Minister of Interior reflected this need in his speech at the opening ceremony, wherein he pointed out the absence of clear house addresses and streets names in the capital, a problem making civil defence work, like the fire brigade, very difficult.

Does the word "Islamic" have any negative consequences upon your efforts or relations with other international organizations?

It is a problem, and at the same time, it isn't. Unfortunately, people nowadays are suspicious of anything Islamic. We're part of Islamic activities, so people must get used to the name Islamic Relief and the work we do. This is important so that any future relief work that's Islamic and has an Islamic name will be welcomed.

You signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Considering the current international mode in relation to Islamic activities, do you have difficulties dealing with international organizations?

No, not at all. We have good relations with the U.N. and several international organizations. IR has been working with the IOM to deliver essential relief items to earthquake-affected communities in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

We deal with all governments and have nothing to do with ideologies. We've worked with Saddam Hussein's government in Iraq, the Chechnyan government and the government in southern Sudan.

The new agreement formally allows each organization to request the other's cooperation during relief operations in order not to duplicate efforts and to maximize effectiveness in helping vulnerable populations.

On May 9, one of your staff members, Ayaz Ali, was arrested by Israeli security services and held three weeks at Israel's top security Ashkelon Prison. Can you tell us about that?

Yes, he was released without charge and has been deported from Israel indefinitely. We still don't know why he was arrested.

Are you following up the case?

Yes, the Israeli prime minister's office made a statement accusing IR of providing "support and assistance to Hamas's infrastructure." This statement is irresponsible and unacceptable. We've replied to them and the case is ongoing.

Do you think this is part of Israel's policy against Hamas?

We deal with all governments and have nothing to do with ideologies. We've worked with Saddam Hussein's government in Iraq, the Chechnyan government and the government in southern Sudan. We deal with political decision makers in the countries in which we work, obtaining their permission to operate in the country and informing them about our activities. If they have different agendas, that's their business. So, we work with all governments.

Including the Israeli government?

We deal with all official governments worldwide.



El-Bana: The economic process of selling qat is a vicious cycle benefiting only a small community in society.



The Great Mosque in the old city of Sana'a.

A new era for Yemen's oil industry

Last week his Excellency the Minister of Oil and National Resources Mr. Khalid Bahah held a gathering with several representatives of Oil exploration and Production companies as well as subcontractors operating in Yemen. During the gathering his Excellency has indicated the new working priorities of his ministry as well as a number of remarks on various issues on the industry. This report summarizes his Excellency's briefing.

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

A New Oil Culture

The main focus of the Ministry of Oil is to share ideas and management solutions so the Oil companies and the Ministry can increase their mutual interests, through an open discussion with oil companies to encourage the companies to work in increased levels of transparency and professionalism, admitting the difficulty of working in a third world country such as Yemen and the challenges associated with that. The Ministry of Oil aspires to have oil companies working together to progress the oil and petroleum sector in Yemen to a new stage and have a fair mutual interest with all the companies working in oil exploration and production along with subcontractors.

Subcontracting companies

Although subcontracting companies play an instrumental and important role in the industry, some subcontractors have become a burden rather than a support to the industry. During its 20 years of experience in oil and gas Yemen has provided a good opportunity for subcontractors to emerge and grow, however, many subcontractors, especially local ones, lack the vision for future growth in spite of the success of their operations. Therefore, they have to think and rethink professionally where they want to go because in the new era a change is eminent and they will not be able to work in the same old traditional mentality and use of their influence and power, we, in the Ministry of Oil, have witnessed cases where a subcontractor couldn't win a bid and therefore used

their influence to turn the results, but those days are finished.

Subcontractors need to expand their services and upgrade their operational systems in order to complete more efficiently, the current trend where subcontractors are fighting for a bigger share of the existing small pool of operations is a big challenge, and the message from the ministry is very clear – if they want to continue growing their business they have to enlarge their pool of activities and no longer think someone in the Ministry of Oil will support them to get this bid or that contract.

Exploration companies

We have 26 blocks with 15 exploration companies working in Yemen and another 14 blocks still at the bidding stage. This interest indicates activity in the oil sector will be growing considerably, and if we, the management and leadership of the Ministry of Oil, don't grow with this activity and update our system then it will frustrate our government and leadership. We want to make sure that we meet the expectations of our leadership and those investors who come Yemen with an interest in our oil sector, investors such as Total which has considerable experience in developing countries and has the spirit to expand in challenging environments

Ethics

Oil companies operating in Yemen have to work ethically especially with regards to the widespread corruption, they have to help the ministry by avoiding deals with the disease of corruption and to follow their own code of conduct.

It is true that corruption is a shortcut to



get what you want, however if any company has a long term interest in Yemen then it better avoid corruption, and face the challenges knowing that all oil companies have the support and backup of the Ministry of Oil, otherwise companies found to be taking part in corruption will be blacklisted and risk losing their licence. The ministry has a special interest in detecting cases of corruption especially within its employees and associates, and it requests the help of oil companies to inform of any individual cases of corruption they detect.

Yemenisation

Quality of Yemenisation in the oil sector is first priority and this priority is no longer negotiable. Local manpower has reached a stage where they provide the support to run the operations of oil companies. Today's manpower has advanced greatly compared to 20 years ago when Yemen was still a virgin market for oil companies. Thus far, oil companies are not completely supportive with regards to the ministry's Yemenisation policy; it is a shame to see expatriates in junior managerial and operational positions. In fact it is an insult to Yemen to continue seeing these positions filled with non-nationals, in the interest of the whole industry, as Yemen enjoys a competitive and cost-effective workforce.

Brain Offices

Brain offices or 'kitchens' of several com-

panies have been established or moved to outside Yemen for a number of reasons. However, the Ministry of Oil no longer accepts this reality because it creates a considerable opportunity loss as Yemen can benefit from experienced and knowledgeable people working in Yemen especially after the oil runs out one day. Therefore the ministry will be working with oil companies on moving these brain offices into Yemen on an agreed time schedule. This point has become even more important because of the experience with Hunt and Safer, his Excellency's recent visit to Safer oil company indicated that one of their big challenges is there isn't enough information to run the oil field because the operation was run from Dallas, and now the ministry keeps on requesting information from them to get the history of the oil field. This is jeopardizing the oil operation and also the Yemen LNG project.

The Environment

Safety and the environment is usually the last priority in third world countries, however this is changing with the growth of peoples' understanding about maintaining the environment, and therefore it has become a priority after the requests and complaints of local people in governorates. The ministry can no longer ignore this issue, and must ensure international oil companies enforce their international environmental code of conduct regardless of where they operate; pointing out the many oil companies need to upgrade their environmental systems and standards. Additionally, the Ministry of Oil is going to upgrade its contracts in order to agree with contracted oil companies on the environmental standards of operation, indicating that the environmental monitoring unit within the Ministry itself will be reformed and upgraded as well.

Leakage of Refined products

Yemen is subsidizing refined products by over 100 percent for the objective of reducing the cost on citizens. However,

oil companies and contractors must obtain their refined oil products directly from the national oil company, and avoid buying that from the consumer market. The ministry is under a lot of pressure to hunt down those who illegally buy their refined products from the market, especially on the part of subcontractors, therefore the Ministry of Oil would like to formulate a mechanism where oil exploration and production companies can oblige their subcontractors to buy their refined oil products from the national oil company.

Fair and Transparent Bidding

The Ministry of Oil has developed a very fair system for bidding, in which they deal with all companies very professionally, openly and fairly, knowing that the blocks will be awarded to the highest bidders and therefore the only way to get the blocks is to raise your offers.

Brokers

There were several incidents where new companies think thought they need brokers or partners with influence in the market, the ministry of oil does not accept that sort of brokerage and does not deal with brokers. Therefore it is advised that oil companies deal directly with the ministry and avoid becoming victims or be exploited by brokers. The Ministry would deal directly and professionally with all companies, assuring complete guidance and assistance with regards to operating in Yemen.

VIP file

Every company has a VIP file, people who may prove helpful in various agencies and organizations, therefore having any application or employment opportunity treated favourably. It is true that pressure from VIPs is exerted in order to treat their applications favourably, however, his Excellency is asking to formulate a process through which all applications are treated fairly and people are ranked upon merit; don't accept any pressures and go with the system.

Internships

We have a problem with the huge number of university graduates who have no place they can be trained; we need every company to consider a number of people to be trained in their countries, through employment and internships, as a social contribution to this country by giving them the chance to be trained, and in turn can prove useful for the company.

Business in brief

US\$ 60 million to stabilize the Riyal

The Central Bank of Yemen has pumped US\$ 60 million into the local market to stabilize the value of the Riyal and meet demands for foreign currency. The Central Bank of Yemen has intensified its interventions to sustain the value of the Riyal especially considering the upcoming elections season.

25% annual increase in international trade

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. Sheikh, has stated that Yemen's international trade is increasing by 25 percent annually; he made this statement while inaugurating the second Sana'a International Exhibition for marketing of consumer goods, organized by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in cooperation with Apollo exhibitions.

Yemen to sign new oil agreements in November

The Minister of Oil and Natural resources, Mr. Khalid Bahah, has indicated a number of oil exploration and production agreements will be signed for 14 blocks by November, raising the known reserves to over 9.7 billion barrels. He also indicated that the first mineral explorations agreement will be signed soon, asserting that the year 2007 will witness more developments for oil and gas exploration and production.

India's Punj Lloyd wins US\$69m Gas contract

Punj Lloyd Ltd of India has won a US\$69 million contract from Yemgas being executed for the Yemen LNG company, and will be completed in 28 months. The contract includes civil, mechanical, electrical and painting work for off sites and utilities as well as other civil works for Yemen LNG Company.

Yemeni customs authority to be reformed

Dr. Ali Al-Zabidi, director of the Yemeni customs authority, indicated the project to reform and restructure the customs authority is about to be inaugurated, following an introductory workshop on the restructuring strategy and the stages upon which the authority will be reformed. The objective is to facilitate international trade and ease the burden of importers with the help of advanced technology and upgraded systems.

Arbitration workshop in Taiz

The Taiz chamber of commerce have conducted a commercial arbitration workshop in cooperation with the German Technical assistance program GTZ, the workshop included participants from over 12 chambers of commerce as well as several judges and employees of the judicial system.

The rules of reconstruction

By: Graciana del Castillo

Lebanon's reconstruction, so painstakingly carried out in the 1990's, is now at risk of being undone. But Lebanon is not alone in that respect: according to the UN and several independent studies, countries in transition from war to peace face roughly a 50% chance of sliding back into warfare. Indeed, in East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and many other countries, the transition to peace seems to be failing.

Likewise, there is unfinished business in many other countries undergoing reconstruction. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), for example, just held its first elections in 40 years.

The stability of the Great Lakes region of Africa, perhaps that continent's most violent area, will depend on the success of its transition and reconstruction.

When wars end, countries confront a

The objective of peace should prevail over that of development if the two come into conflict.

multi-pronged transition. Violence must give way to security for inhabitants; lawlessness and political exclusion must give way to the rule of law and participatory government; ethnic, religious, or class/caste polarization must give way to national reconciliation; and ruined war

economies must be transformed into functioning market economies that enable ordinary people to support themselves.

These multiple tasks make economic reconstruction fundamentally different from "development as usual." To succeed, the transition to peace requires demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants, as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation of services and infrastructure.

To meet these goals, the objective of peace should prevail over that of development if the two come into conflict. Often, optimal economic policies and best practices are not attainable – or even desirable. This also means that peace-related programs should get priority in budget allocations.

Of course, the legitimacy of the government or other policymaking body will determine what is possible in economic policymaking. A weak interim national government – or a United Nations or foreign occupying administration – should not attempt to implement policies such as privatizing national resources when doing so might incite political resistance.

Indeed, early privatization is likely to be destructive in its own terms, because property rights will remain in question for some time. Thus, a new yardstick is needed to measure success. Projects must be judged by whether they contribute to peace and reconciliation, rather than on purely economic grounds.

Effective demobilization and reconciliation in El Salvador, for example, ensured the consolidation of peace after that country's brutal civil war of the 1980's. Elsewhere, however, disregarding the primacy of politics in a transition to peace has had tragic consequences.

The failure to demobilize and reconcile factions in Lebanon, where Hezbollah remained armed despite its

transformation into a political party, meant that belligerency was always bubbling below the surface. Likewise, the collapse of peace processes in Angola and Haiti and the various setbacks in Cambodia and Nicaragua during the 1990's reflect a failure to demobilize and integrate.

On the surface, the UN seems ideally placed to lead reconstruction efforts because, unlike development institutions like the World Bank, it can integrate the political and economic objectives that are equal parts of a transition to peace. Yet, time and again, the UN has shown itself to be incompetent in this role. In Kosovo, for example, the transformation of the Kosovo Liberation Army into a civilian peace force has caused great insecurity over the years, which the UN administration might ultimately regret if the resolution of the province's final status does not lead to independence.

The UN seems ideally placed to lead reconstruction efforts because, unlike development institutions like the World Bank, it can integrate the political and economic objectives that are equal parts of a transition to peace.

Treating the transition to peace as "development as usual" has, moreover, led to new violence in East Timor, a country that the UN once trumpeted as a success story. The commercial exploitation of rich oil and gas reserves in the Timor Gap could have facilitated reconstruction and created jobs for the 30% of the labor force that is unemployed. Instead, with the strong approval of the IMF, East Timor created a Norwegian-style "petroleum fund" to save the

money for a rainy day. But in East Timor, that rainy day is now.

Iraq provides numerous examples of the dangers created by misplaced priorities. Early efforts to privatize Iraq's oil industry proved disastrous, confirming for many Iraqis that the occupying Americans were determined to "steal" the country's wealth and thus fanning the flames of violent resistance. Indeed, privatization was all the more bizarre as a policy choice because it was doomed in advance: investors clearly would not be attracted to buy assets where property rights might change once a legitimate Iraqi government took over – a huge impediment to investment in Kosovo as well.

But the United States has not learned its lesson. On the verge of civil war, Iraq just announced a restructuring of its foreign debt. Rather than improving services and living conditions in areas where it could have helped consolidate peace, the government, at America's behest, will allocate hundreds of millions of dollars to pay investment banks, accounting firms, and legal advisors who assist with that refinancing.

Any transition to peace may well prove ephemeral unless policymakers make political reconciliation and integration – not optimal economic policies – the bedrock priority. Despite its failures, the UN is probably still the best-placed organization to oversee such efforts. But the complexity of the tasks that post-conflict countries face underscores the urgent challenge of providing the UN with the capacity to meet them.

Graciana del Castillo is a Director of the Centennial Group (CG-LA), and is at work on a book entitled *The Political Economy of Peace: Lessons, Best Practices and Policy Guidelines for Postconflict Economic Reconstruction*. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006.

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Public Works Project-Yemen

CONSULTING SERVICES

Credit No. /3859

Expressions of interest

The government of Yemen has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Public Works Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services.

The services include:

1. **Validate current base-line data so as to measure various outputs and outcome performance indicators**
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 - a. Physical objectives, in terms of infrastructure to be constructed and delivered to beneficiaries/ concerned agencies; and
 - b. Socio-economic objectives, in terms of alleviating poverty through the generation of increased employment and improving community livelihoods through better public services (particularly, services of direct need to women and children),
 - c. Pwp improved procedures and extent to which recommendations of the previous SIA were incorporated in aspects of improved data collection, social and environmental aspects

The public works project now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indication that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.)

Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

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- Provide necessary equipment, clothing and services required for the protection of employees and prevention of personal injury.
- Develop and administer safety training programs to field personnel.
- Conduct monthly group safety meetings on a selected safety topic and assist field department supervisors with presentations to employees, if required.
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Builders of Nation



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

If you please take my advice

By: Radhi Al radhi
alradhinet@yahoo.com

If you please take my advice;
If you're fond of being famous.
But take it with open eyes
And have the desire and be ambitious.

Take the knowledge from any course
Examine it and take the truth.
What ever the source neglect the false
And seek for right at north or south.

Read and write my dear fellow
Be ambitious and do your best.
Witness, seek, analyze now
There is no time for play or rest.

As they said when there is a will,
There is a way and there is a win.
So, take the duties and do them well
But being lazy is a serious sin.

Observe, analyse, and examine nature
Be romantic and get her lessons.
You'll find an ideal teacher
With open books for many persons.

Look at Sun .Oh ! how bright
How innocent and how she rises.
Gaze at moon in a moonlet night
And she'll give you her best prizes.

Read these notes of that red rose
How fragrant and what a beauty.
Or see that ant .Stop and pause
To teach you how to do the duty.

Be as clear as a pole star
Say the truth of east or west.
Spread the peace wherever you're
And welcome people with an open chest.

Excuse me, if you please,
Be as pure as the breeze .
I don't order but if you please.
If you please and if you please.

Corruption

By: Afrah Nasser
afrah.nasser@yahoo.com

What's corruption? Is it a moral deviance in the heads of government administration? Is it a waiver of a country's public properties for personal advantages? Simply, I think it's using public posts to fulfill special advantages or it's a jobbery in order to fulfill individual services .

Through this definition, all of the bad profiteering exercises in a governmental or a private post are included. Such as, commissions, bribes, tax evasions, contraband money, customs swindles, revelation of contracts and transaction secrets , and intercession and patronage in public posts.

Even though economic corruption is a phenomenon that is almost limited in imposing on government jobs, it can reach invisible distinct sections of society.

People who are in charge, who are involved in this phenomenon, excel in utilizing methods of corruption. Plus, corruption exercises cover for each other and mostly an involved person would disregard the "minor corruption" in a country where "major corruption" is really common, and the difference between this two types of corruption exists in it's environment, in it's value, in it's impact on the economic resources and the commune money.

I think the best understanding of this phenomenon is through its aspects, its indications and its revelations. All of us know that any county's resources are exposed to growth as they are exposed to depletion and waste, according to how they are run and how sufficient they are.

Yet, a rotten rule is a chief element of depleting a national wealth, starting with bribes purveyance, to money conversion, money transferring, bills

forgery, customs transcendence and manipulating international aid.

Corruption has numerous occurrences; the most important ones are financial corruption and administrative corruption. Political corruption is considered as the most dangerous. The most important term of the financial corruption is bribery, that's because it really concerns administrative departments and all kinds of service departments.

Perhaps what's really a dangerous characteristic of bribery is that it almost has an official justification and even in our culture it has an acceptance that could be a feature native to the third world's features.

Squandering country's expenses comes from the behavior of some of the people who are in charge in the country and the army, through swelling general expenditure bills, for the sake of some specific individuals or some specific classes.

During the phases of economic reformation, all of the countries that had gone through a transmission phase took advantage of important international aids. Despite the finiteness of these aids' amounts comparing to the transmission's

needs and the national economics rehabilitation, important amounts of international aid has disappeared or has been used inappropriately!

There are several operations to eliminate corruption:

- Encouraging freedom of media.
- Public participation in observing this phenomenon.
- Superintendence accounting.
- Reorganizing lawful systematization of commercial transactions.
- Upholding free and honest elections.
- Combating money contra-banding and white-collar crimes.
- Setting specific programs with an international assistance in combating all kinds of corruption.

Economic growth has always been an obsession for any country, because it forms a frontal port for development. As it's known, several field and standard studies have shown how growth rates get tremendously affected by corruption.

To sum up, corruption conception has a great relation to growth. It's necessary to realize the international initiative to block this phenomenon. It's imperative to motivate the non-government organizations to provoke this subject and to start dealing with it.

Co-education

By: Yasmeeen Al-Haddad
Taiz

Islam encourages education of science and it does not say that boys learn together and girls study together.

I agree with co-education. The prophet peace be upon him and his kinsmen Saying, "Be searching for education from request to grave," and he said, "Request the education even in China."

We come to learn not to compare co-education.

Nowadays co-education exists in most of schools and learning organizations and that means after school co-education is obligatory.

If you don't study and you get work, it is necessary to have mixing between genders.

I believe that we spend more than twelve years in school not to stay at home, and say that there are boys and they will be study with us, but we should contain our study because life consists of hard work.

In some villages we rarely find schools and males studying with females is often forbidden.

It is true in some families that females study with males, surely we judge that with full ignorance as they issue those ignorant laws.

In addition, if we look in the towns we find schools of co-education

What will women do after school?
Will we stay at home?

After twelve years of study are you willing to give up all those years of school?

That is not equitable and lacks logic, we should make all efforts to use our education and not give up

our studies.
If we suppose the male will insult the female we can change that.

If she is polite, respected and modest, I think that the boys do not dare to take and to harm her, but if she is the opposite, she is determining her fate.

Questions
Do you think that co-education is a good way to learn?

Yes, because I believe that we spent more than twelve years in school not to stay at home and say that there are boys and they will study with us, but we should continue our studies because life consists of hard work.

Some People say co-education is a western idea, those people are wrong because they did not hear the prophet peace be upon him when he said, "Be search for education from request to grave." And the Islam side study we judge for people that they are not equal.

Are there positive sides of Co-education?

No they are not positive sides because they want to lose our time in sully words and to lose our study.

Are there negative sides of co-education?

Yes, they were negative because they judge co-education as bad and they did not know that the society consists of male and female.

If you were to choose between segregated education and co-education, which one do you prefer?

I prefer co-education because when we finish studies at school and we want to study at collage there are no segregated studies.

So long

By: Mohammed Ali Saeed Kaed
alkhil2020@hotmail.com

Like in jail or prison.
Free in this world in the future,
But not to see you again, give pardon.

For you become parts of hearts,
"Live along" dears, shine with sun
Every day in 'Education & Arts'.
With joy, happiness, and fun.

The countries of some which,
Become much loved by us.
To go there is our wish,
To share and drink love for countries.

Today, another sorrow to fall,
When to leave our fathers,
By whom we gained things of all
Knowledge, philosophies and matters.

I feel too shocked to be alone,
In this crowded world, and forget
Our parents of knowledge very soon.
And have - lastly - no target.

How can we bear such a departure,

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Nascar sponsor
- 4 Repairman's stock
- 9 North Dakota city
- 14 Geological time span
- 15 Difficult to miss
- 16 Name on a famous war plane
- 17 Land in the Thames, e.g
- 18 "Goodbye"
- 20 Makes less tense
- 22 Again from the top
- 23 Check copy
- 24 Gamer
- 26 What babies do eventually
- 30 Crave
- 32 Do-say connection
- 34 Colorful Vietnam city?
- 35 "Goodbye"
- 39 Beach-house support
- 42 Muscle car of song
- 43 Places to go around in circles
- 44 "Goodbye"
- 47 In the manner of
- 48 Bob Hope's WWII gp.
- 49 Venerated mementos
- 53 Endanger
- 56 Polish name ending
- 58 Enticement
- 59 The bulk
- 61 Offensively malodorous
- 63 "Goodbye"
- 67 Nancy Drew's beau
- 68 Makin, for one
- 69 They're rich in chips
- 70 Blood-pressure raiser
- 71 "Winner" in an infamous head-line
- 72 No longer current
- 73 Positive thinker's word

DOWN

- 1 Hermetic
- 2 Vacuum tube type
- 3 Academese, e.g.
- 4 Attitudinize
- 5 Retribution seeker
- 6 Actress Witherspoon
- 7 Determine judicially
- 8 Greek covered path
- 9 Donnybrook
- 10 Bowled over
- 11 Word with so or interested
- 12 Center of the Grand Opry
- 13 Petroleum residue
- 19 Deal with a snarl
- 21 Muffle
- 25 Results of getting needed?
- 27 At that point
- 28 First name in wrestling legends
- 29 Stork's supper, sometimes
- 31 Pro ___ (proportionately)
- 33 Booted, e.g.
- 36 Freudian interests
- 37 Fish-eating sea bird
- 38 Brandishes
- 39 Spurious imitation
- 40 Fish story
- 41 Dr. Pavlov
- 45 Hospitality recipient
- 46 They hit in Baltimore
- 50 Unexpectedly appropriate
- 51 Brownie, for one
- 52 Malmo locale
- 54 Plentiful
- 55 Demurely
- 57 Gentle cycle items
- 60 Mechanism trigger
- 62 Spot of land
- 63 Owned at one time
- 64 Had a helping
- 65 Gunshot sound
- 66 Santa's trailer

"BYE-BYE" by Kamy Shore

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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	A	G	O	R	A	S	P	R	S	K	I	M	S
T	E	A	M	O	R	C	A	H	I	D	E	O	
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P	I	G	H	B	A	N	K	S	T	E	N	O	
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O	V	I	N	E	C	L	O	D	T	I	R	E	
S	A	T	I	R	K	A	T	E	S	L	E	D	

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The comic strip shows Calvin and Hobbes playing football. Calvin asks Hobbes to toss the ball, but Hobbes refuses. Calvin then fumbles the ball, and Hobbes punts it. Calvin is frustrated, but Hobbes is enjoying the game. The strip ends with Calvin and Hobbes talking about the game.

**CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE**

Nothing is rotten in the state of Denmark

LONDON (Reuters) — If you're looking for happiness, go and live in Denmark.

It is the happiest country in the world while Burundi in Africa is the most unhappy, according to a report by a British scientist released Friday.

Adrian White, an analytical social psychologist at the University of Leicester in central England, based his study on data from 178 countries and 100 global studies from the likes of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

"We're looking much more at whether you are satisfied with your life in general," White told Reuters. "Whether you are satisfied with your situation and environment."

The main factors that affected

happiness were health provision, wealth and education, according to White who said his research had produced the "first world map of happiness."

Following behind Denmark came Switzerland, Austria, Iceland and the Bahamas.

At the bottom came the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Burundi. The United States came in at 23rd, Britain was in 41st place, Germany 35th and France 62nd.

Countries involved in conflicts, such as Iraq, were not included.

"Smaller countries tend to be a little happier because there is a stronger sense of collectivism and then you also have the aesthetic qualities of a country," White said.

"We were surprised to see countries in Asia scoring so low, with China 82nd, Japan 90th, and India 125th. These are countries that are thought as having a strong sense of collective identity which other researchers have associated with well-being."

He admitted collecting data based on well-being was not an exact science, but said the measures used were very reliable in predicting health and welfare outcomes.

Regular studies by academics across the globe using the same tests would allow researchers to better understand what factors affected happiness and White said he hoped every country in the future would carry out bi-annual checks.

Musician uses bombs as backdrop

LONDON (Reuters) — A Lebanese musician has recorded a unique duet with the Israeli Air Force by recording on the balcony of his Beirut apartment during a bombing raid.

In his sound art piece, trumpeter Marzen Kerbaj intermingles his music with the sounds of bombardment.

Explaining how he put together his unique composition, Kerbaj told BBC Radio: "I was maybe three kilometres (two miles) away. I could see them explode and hear them but somehow I was safe."

"It is freaking for the nerves but

I quickly understood that if I play music while it is happening, it is much better than just hearing it happening. Somehow my brain shifts and I focus totally on the music."

Asked if he thought his composition was in questionable taste, he said: "Throwing bombs on buses with kids escaping from their villages is in much more horrible taste."

He said the recording was a way of making people listen to what Beirut was facing. "It's not like on CNN. It is not a Hollywood movie, it is really happening."

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Man saves dog thrown from window

WARSAW (Reuters) — A man was bruised but alive on Wednesday after a Saint Bernard dog thrown out a two-story window landed on him as he was walking down the street in the southern-Polish city of Sosnowiec.

The 110-pound dog was pushed out of the window by its drunken owner Monday, police said.

"The dog had a soft landing because it fell on a man," said police spokesman Grzegorz Wierzbicki. "The dog escaped with just a few scratches."

"The man was also more in a psychological state of shock than physically hurt," Wierzbicki added.

The one-year-old dog, named Oskar, was placed in an animal shelter while police investigate

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