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**Readers' Voice**  
Last edition's question:  
**Do you think developments in the Sa'ada war will motivate tribes to switch sides and loyalties?**

I don't know (20%)  
Yes (59%)  
No (21%)

This edition's question:  
**Do you think Dr. Al-Asali resigned because he felt the regime isn't serious in fighting corruption?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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## New Cabinet members announced

**By: Ismail Al-Ghabri**  
SANA'A, April 7 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued a republican decree last Thursday dictating the formation of a new government, to be led by new Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar and including 32 portfolios, after reintroducing the Ministry for Expatriate Affairs.  
The new Cabinet includes 12 new members following the resignation of former Finance Minister Saif Al-Asali, who was newly appointed as Minister of Trade and Industry, and appointing someone else in his place. In return, 10 ministers left the Cabinet and a minister was appointed for the newly reinstated Ministry of Expatriate Affairs.  
While 16 ministers retained their posts, another four were transferred to other ministries. Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul Kareem Al-Arhabi also assumed the post of Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, in addition to his previous placement.  
The list of those who left the Cabinet includes: General People's Congress Assistant Secretary-General Sadeq Amin Abu Ras and Abdulrahman Al-Akwa', previously assuming the Ministry of Local Administration and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, respectively.  
Further, Minister of Culture Khalid Rowaishan, Telecommunications Minister Abdulmalik Al-Mu'almi and Human Rights Minister Khadija Al-

Haisami also left their ministerial posts.  
Retaining their posts were: Interior Minister Rashad Al-Alimi, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul Kareem Al-Arhabi, Information Minister Hassan Ahmed Al-Lawzi, Foreign Affairs Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, Defense Minister Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, Public Health Minister Abdulkarim Rasa', Minister of Fish Wealth Mahmoud Zaghairi, Justice Minister Ghazi Al-Aghbari, Higher Education Minister Saleh Ali Bassura, Minister of Tourism Nabil Al-Faqih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Amatalrazak Ali Hummad, Minister of Public Works and Roads Omar Al-Kurshumi, Minister of Water and Environment Abdulrahman Al-Eryani, Minister of Oil and Minerals Khalid Mahfoudh Bahah, Education Minister Abdulsallam Al-Jawfi, Minister of Civil Service and Insurance Hamoud Khalid Al-Soufi and Minister of State and Sana'a Mayor Yahya Al-Shu'aibi.  
As for those joining the Cabinet for the first time, the list includes: Mustafa Baharan as Minister of Electricity, Abdulqader Hilal as Minister of Local Administration, Saleh Sumi'e as Minister of Expatriate Affairs, Noman Al-Souhaibi as Finance Minister, Kamal Al-Jabri as Telecommunications Minister, Mansour Al-Houshabi as Agriculture and Irrigation Minister, Ibrahim Omar Hajri as Minister of Vocational and Technical Education, Huda Al-Ban as Human Rights Minister



Photos: Sana

and Hamoud Al-Hitar as Minister of Endowments.  
Former Minister of Endowments Hamoud Obad assumed the post of Youth and Sports Minister, while Rashad Al-Rassas and Adnan Al-Jifri exchanged positions. The former was appointed Legal Affairs Minister in place of Al-Jifri, who assumed the post of Minister of Parliament and Shoura Council Affairs.

Some observers believe Yemen has done little regarding political and economic reforms and combating corruption, which remains rampant in all state institutions, while there's no real activation of effective laws and legislation. They believe Yemen's is an impaired government unable to achieve its peoples' wishes.

Read more on page 3



The New Cabinet has a reform agenda focused on stimulating economic growth.

## Sa'ada war: expanding fronts and tactics, increasing victims

**By: Mohammed bin Sallam**  
SA'ADA, April 8 — Tribal sources told the Yemen Times that confrontations between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists are still aflame in numerous areas of Sa'ada, particularly in Dhahian city, as well as in Magz, Sahar, Saqeen, Haydan, Kittaf, Baqem

and Al-Safra districts. And, for the first time, the confrontations have extended to Ghamar, a district bordering Saudi territory.  
Some Sa'ada residents mentioned that the capital city of Sa'ada witnessed tough clashes with heavy and medium-sized weaponry last week after Houthi loyalists attacked military sites in Al-Abilah, Al-Sinarah and other nearby positions south of Sa'ada. The Yemeni army responded by attacking areas in Al-Abdeen and Rahaban areas, which are outskirts south of Sa'ada.  
Confirmed reports indicate that fighting renewed last Wednesday and Thursday in Al-Safra'a district's Bani Mu'ath and Dammaj. Dhahian and dozens of villages in Al-Talh, Bani Mu'ath and Al-Salem suffered massive damage after being attacked by air fighters and tanks.  
**Dhahian fighting continues**  
Some displaced Dhahian locals revealed that hundreds of civilians, including women and children, are still confined in the city because they were unable to leave their homes, partly due to the army siege around the city, in addition to ongoing military action between both warring sides. Thus, they were unable to reach new areas allocated for displaced citizens in Baqem dis-

trict, which neighbors Saudi Arabia.  
"Dhahian is an afflicted city and it's believed that epidemic diseases will spread among locals due to the decomposition of bodies under the ruins of houses. Additionally, falling rains will turn the city into a swamp for endemic disease," locals warn.  
Official sources hinted that some diseases already have spread among displaced citizens, attributing such to overcrowding and air pollution in homes receiving the displaced.  
Some soldiers told media outlets, "Fighting is ongoing in Dhahian and surrounding areas. The Yemeni army is unable to reach the middle of the city because Houthis are employing new tactics in their fight against the army.  
"Houthis dig trenches and passages from streets into houses or some places outside the city. Such tactics have increased the number of victims among army forces and pro-army volunteers by permitting military men or volunteers into the city's zones and later besieging them with large numbers of Houthi followers," the soldiers explained.  
**Hospital overcrowding**  
Citizens also mentioned that they witnessed helicopters transporting the bodies of dead and injured soldiers to

hospitals outside Sa'ada after the city's hospitals became overcrowded with the bodies of dead military personnel and tribal volunteers, in addition to those others hospitalized.  
*Continued on page 3*

## Worshippers nearly burned alive, culprit caught

**Due to personal problems with his father, Hamid Al-Showmi cracked and decided to burn his father alive, along with more than 40 worshippers during a Friday prayer service last week. He was caught, victims are being treated and order has been reinstated in the area.**



"I saw the whole thing..." Abdullah told YemenTimes

**By: Saddam Al-Ashmori For The Yemen Times**  
AMRAN, April 7 — Arson injured 33 people, including four children under age 14, who were praying at Beit Al-Amari Mosque in Al-Sawdah district in Amran governorate, located some 60 km. from the capital of Sana'a. A man petrol-bombed the mosque while worshippers were performing Al-Jum'ah weekly prayer last Friday.  
Eyewitnesses said someone entered the mosque while worshippers were in prayer, sprayed fuel on them and the walls, then set fire and locked them inside. Local security announced its capture of the culprit, Hamid Al-Showmi, who currently is being interrogated, the district's director conveyed.  
The fire burned 11 worshippers severely, necessitating their transport to Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a, which has Yemen's only specialized burn unit. Another 22 were taken to local hospitals  
*Continued on page 3*

in Amran, some with first- and second-degree burns and some suffering from asphyxiation. Dr. Khalid Al-Kurbati, director of Amran Public Hospital, told a Yemen Times reporter at the scene.  
Amran Governor Taha Hajer expressed his concern about the incident, noting that the trapped men's rush to escape the fire caused further harm. Those nearer the windows managed to escape without much harm, jumping through the windows. The fire started at the back of the mosque and in a flash, the whole place was in flames. Men began breaking the windows and shouting for those in the neighboring houses to unlock the mosque and free them.  
*Continued on page 3*

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## In brief

## ADEN

## Tourists arrive at Aden Port

April 7 — Seven yachts loaded with tourists of various nationalities docked Saturday at Aden Port, Yemen News Agency quoted a marine source as saying. As many as 33 tourists from Belgium, France, Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands, Singapore, Australia, Britain and the United States arrived at the harbor on a tourist trip.

The news agency added that a program had been prepared for the foreign visitors to tour several archaeological sites, historical attractions and popular markets in Aden.

## Officials discuss economic obstacles

April 8 — On Saturday, Aden Governor Ahmad Al-Kuhlani discussed with a high-ranking British diplomat from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Ministry various economic obstacles posed to Yemeni development, Yemen News Agency reported.

Al-Kuhlani reviewed local authority efforts to reconstruct infrastructure in the old quarters and establish new projects. The British official clarified that his visit is within the framework of his study on Yemen's primary issues, as mandated by his government.

## LAHJ

## Teenaged boy's body found

April 7 — Police in Lahj governorate's Tuban district discovered the body of a 17-year-old boy who was strangled to death, stabbed in his back and neck with a dagger and left in an unpopulated area. The victim, Nabih Mohammed Nu'man from Abr Lasloum village in Tuban district, was thrown in a deserted area with dogs surrounding his body.

Abdulsalam Al-Radhi, director of the Lahj Criminal Investigation Bureau, told Al-Ayyam daily newspaper, "Twenty-four hours after we were informed of the murder, police arrested a suspect from Al-Daba area in Tuban district, who confessed that he murdered Nu'man and discarded his body in a deserted area."

## SANA'A

## New foreign envoys to Yemen submit credentials

April 8 — Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi on Saturday received the credentials of newly assigned foreign ambassadors to Yemen. The new diplomats include: Daoud Andul Muti, Jan Eliason, Admir Badrey, Mustafa Nour, Antony Feliamour, Warsheid Baowa and John Enro-Defenz, ambassadors of the Sultanate of Brunei, Sweden, Albania, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Ghana and South Africa, respectively. The new envoys and Al-Qirbi discussed the means of mutual cooperation between Yemen and their countries.

## Sheikhs protest

## Al-Moayyad's detention

April 8 — Hundreds of prominent Yemeni sheikhs urged President Ali Abdullah Saleh, his government, Yemeni political parties and all civil community organizations to take quick action to free the detained aging Sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayyad and his aide, Mohammed Zayed, who are imprisoned in the United States.

They protested official indifference toward Al-Moayyad's case and demanded the Yemeni government pressure the U.S. administration to release the pair. Rabish Bin Ali Wabhan, a prominent sheikh from Al-Haima tribe, appealed to concerned organizations to pursue serious efforts to free the elderly sheikh and his companion.

## TAIZ

## Arab Orphans Festival

April 7 — Islah Social Charitable Society organized the Arab Orphans Festival on Thursday under the slogan, "Together for the Sake of a Safer Future for Orphans." The event included poetry recitals and skits, in addition to speeches by officials from the society's head office and branches, as well as sheikhs and the mothers of orphans.

Speeches stressed the necessity of supporting charitable projects aimed at caring for orphans, as well as training them in various scientific and cultural areas so they'll grow up to become good citizens able to contribute to their country's development and prosperity.

## YT Journalist detained over photos



Iron bars have been used in order to support the structure bent because of the collapsing muds.

SANA'A, April 8 — A Yemen Times Journalist was detained for over two hours in the construction site at the bridge linking between the 60 Meter Street and Hadda Street. The Journalist went to the site in order to take photos of a small collapse on one of the sides of the construction site. The journalist walked into the construction site through the entrance of the constructions site without being stopped, and walked a distance of over 200 meters, took a few photos and started walking out of the site.

While leaving, the journalist spoke to a Chinese engineer asking him about the collapse, only to be asked by the engineer not to publish a news story about the collapse and delete the pictures taken, the Yemen Times Journalist agreed to cooperate with the engineer and promised not to publish any of the taken photos. However, the journalist was stopped again by some of the guards of the construction site, and he was verbally abused and ordered to surrender his camera. The Journalist was then insulted further by Ali Shaiban, who works as a guard at

the constructions site. Shaiban threatened to punish the journalist for his entry into the site; he said that he was following instructions as given to him by the Chinese engineer.

The Journalist tried to convince the Chinese engineer that the constructions site is a civil project and not a banned area, and that his entry wasn't obstructed by a guard, and no sign was there indicating photography is prohibited. He further promised that he will not publish the story but the engineer ordered the guards to seize the journalist and the camera in an insulting manner. "I refused to delete the photos because I refused to accept the despicable treatment of the engineer and the guards, but maybe the Chinese engineer is excused to behave this way because his culture and the company's administration created a sense of horror among its employees during the presence of the reporter" the journalist said; "I don't know why they feared me although it is normal to take photos which may be documented on behalf of the company in case it is held accountable for

delaying progress of the project."

The Journalist contacted Yemen Times headquarters who in turn contacted the police in order to go to the constructions site to investigate the threats to the journalist and bring him out of the site, however, although the police stated that they would send a police vehicle to the site, and confirmed that a crime has been reported.

The Journalist was detained for two hours until Yemen Times management mediated and called on other guards to interfere, indicating that unless the Journalist was freed immediately the news paper would press charges against the Chinese constructions company operating at the site for the illegal detention of the Journalist.

The damage in the construction work was caused by heavy rains in Sana'a due to lack of water courses in that area to divert rains away from the constructions site. The heavy rains damaged some soil barriers in the bridge project which in turn skewed the iron bars holding one of the sides of the fly-under which is being constructed.

## Yemen's Ba'ath Party denounces war in Sa'ada

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, April 8 — Marking its 60th anniversary of its establishment, the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party organized a celebration on Saturday in Sana'a. The celebration was attended by ambassadors, including Syrian and Iranian Ambassadors, parties' secretary generals and the party's affiliates from across Yemen.

On behalf of the party's secretary general Dr. Abdulwahab Mahamoud, Dr. Abdulrahman Saleh assistant secretary general delivered a speech in which he welcomed the attendees and recounted the history of his party and the long path it has been tracking. He also delineated his party's attitudes of different national, Arab and Islamic issues, maintaining "The party has come from the womb of this nation and it is natural that it dedicates itself for the nation's sake.

In his speech, assistant secretary general of General People Congress Sultan Al-Barakani commended the struggling of Ba'ath party and noted the party has kept struggling since its establishment despite all problems and challenges.

Similarly, Sultan Al-Atwani, secretary General of The Nasserite Unionist People's Organisation, delivered a speech on behalf of the Joint Meeting Parties. Al-Atwani pointed out that Ba'ath Party was a reason for many victories achieved over the history of Arab Nation. He also stressed

that Arab citizens still keep a good memories of the party's immortal victories.

Al-Atwani also noted Ba'aths and Nasserites were the first parties to achieve a real unity in the modern history and this was between Egypt and Syria in 1958 under the name United Arab Republic; however, this unity did not last for long as "Imperialism managed to abolish this unity in 1961.

He added that Ba'ath Party was a key player in Yemen's unity achieved in 1990, asserting such a unity should be the cornerstone for a comprehensive Arab Unity.

Hamas Movement representative in Sana'a Gamal Aisa assured Arabism and Islam are not separated and called upon Arabs and Muslims unit their efforts in order to stand against the Israeli project which does not target Palestine alone but the whole Arab World. He also noted that Israel is the real enemy of Arabs and Muslims.

"There is no option left except to unit and join our efforts for the sake of the nation, whether people, states or parties," said Aisa.

In their released statement, the party denounced the American occupation of Iraq and its intervention in Arab issues like in Lebanon and Sudan. It also condemned the Israeli assaults against Palestinian people.

It also denounced the war escalating in Sa'ada and asked President Saleh to face and fight what they called "criminal gangs" in order to maintain the

nation's unity and stability. He also called all parties in parties in Yemen to stand against what they named as "Sa'ada sedition".

Ba'ath Party was established in 1947 in Damascus's Al-Rasheed Café by different Arab strugglers under the influence of Michael Aflaq and Head of National Relations Department. The party has undergone different challenges and hurdles of the course of its history. It suffered disintegration in 1964 at the hands of Syrian President Hafez Al-Asad and since then the party divided into the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party based on Damascus and Ba'ath National Arab Socialist Party based on Iraq.

The party also divided in Yemen following Yemen's Civil War that took place in 1994 and exactly in 1996 after the party's high ranking officials let in a conflict with the former secretary general Qassim Sallam and most leaderships headed to Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party.

Despite this, Naif Al-Qanes, head of national relations department at the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party assured the two parties have in common more things than those that create differences.

He also revealed that there is a dialogue going on between Ba'athis at national and regional levels to restore their unity, maintaining that Syria has become a home for all Ba'athis after the collapse of Saddam Hussain regime in Iraq.

## Parliament rejects joining International Criminal Court

SANA'A, April 8 — At its session on Saturday, Yemen's Parliament rejected procedures taken to join the International Criminal Court, as well as the March 24 agreement on the court's Rome Statute.

The invalidation resolution occurred after more than 80 members of Parliament requested balloting, which more than 100 MPs approved.

There was disparity and clamor between MPs, within parliamentary blocs and internal parliamentary committees when the statute was put on the ballot. Some MPs spoke about

foreign involvement and acted for the first time outside of their partisan affiliation.

Last month, Parliament voted to join the Rome Statute; however, such vote was considered invalid at Saturday's session because it violated internal parliamentary bylaws.

Thirty-four MPs voted to join the agreement, while 23 voted against it at the first session; however, 50 members voted for it and 80 members rejected it at the second session.

## Al-Asali: Government posts do not become personal rights

SANA'A, 8 April — Former Minister of Finance Saif Al-Asali voiced his surprise over news that spoke of a political stand-off and crisis following his rejection of the Minister of Trade and Industry post.

Dr. Al-Asali interpreted his removal from the finance ministry due to the work of "powerful individuals" who opposed his anti-corruption drive. Al-Asali clarified that he is still working with the government and that plans to serve Yemen through the establishment of a research center focused on government reforms, inline with the election program of the president Saleh.

According to sources, Al-Asali explained that ministries are not personal property and government posts do not become personal rights for officials, he also denied that his removal from the his post as finance minister and his appointment as Minister of Trade and Industry was on grounds of "settling of scores". He also denied expecting the new cabinet to fail, adding that the latest cabinet reshuffle exemplifies a new vision for president Saleh which may be better for Yemen. "I had refused a lot of my rights while holding the post of Finance Minister, as my aim was and



Former Finance Minister Saif Al-Asali.

still is to sincerely serve our country, however, different people have different views on how to serve Yemen," Al Asali added.

Al Asali also expressed his thanks to the president for supporting his work while in the ministry of finance, and he also expressed best wishes for the new Cabinet to continue the reforms program, especially the financial and fiscal reforms in Yemen, wishing all the best for all members of the new Cabinet.

## Parliament postpones electing Anti-corruption Authority



The Parliament in one of its sessions.

YT PHOTO ARCHIVE

SANA'A, April 8 — During its Wednesday session, Parliament postponed electing the Anti-corruption Authority in order to verify nominees' credentials and complete the legal procedures required for nomination.

Member of Parliament Abdulkarim Shaiban said the committee that Parliament's Presidency Board authorized to receive candidate applications has taken wrong procedures, contravening Article 9 of the law. He considers the committee's report a violation of the law because it includes only 25 candidates, whereas the required number is 30 applicants, according to the law. The MP pointed out that such a report affords Parliament only a limited opportunity to select the most eligible candidates.

Shaiban clarified that the committee should verify candidates' credentials, but not depend on data it receives from the Shoura Council.

Prominent MP Sultan Al-Barakani stressed that the parliamentary committee must deal with candidates objectively and examine well their employment history and qualifications, as well as their capacity to confront corruption.

Additionally, the committee must forward a report on them to Parliament.

Al-Barakani's proposal was welcomed by a majority of MPs, which enraged Deputy Parliament Speaker Yahya Al-Ray'i, who asserted that Al-Barakani is playing an enlightening role these days.

MP Nabil Al-Basha of the General People's Congress reacted to the deputy speaker's curiosity and rage, saying, "Why should we become enraged when we hear a good proposal from the head of the GPC parliamentary bloc?"

MP Abdurrazzaq Al-Hijri of the Islah Party backed Al-Barakani's proposal, saying, "Candidates' names should return to the committee in order to verify their files and then prepare a comprehensive report on their employment history, experience and qualifications and forward it to Parliament."

The parliamentary committee presented a report on procedures related to approving candidates for the Anti-corruption Authority, reporting that it received only 28 candidates after other applicants withdrew.

## Lawyers &amp; judges trained as business arbitrators

TAIZ, April 7 — In collaboration with Taiz-based Lawyers Syndicate and supported by the German GTZ, the Chamber of Commerce's Business Arbitration Center organized a training course last Tuesday and involved 20 trainees on business arbitration and resolving business disputes.

Lasting for three days, the course aimed to qualify lawyers and judges to

be accredited as official business arbitrators in order to compensate for the shortage of specialized business courts whose trials take long time. It also aims to help diminish problems affecting investments and commercial and industrial activities.

Business Arbitration Center chairman Adnan Abdullah Saleh told Yemen Times they benefited from the course and they acquired new legal

skills that will facilitate our tasks as arbitrators.

Saleh added developing business arbitration would help diminish the pressure on commercial courts and also help national development. He added that such arbitration is followed in more than 160 countries across the globe and it is favorable in international business community to resolve the business disputes.

# Youth: Half of the Present, All of the Future

By: Khalil Mohammed  
For Yemen Times

In a hopeful step toward a better partnership between governmental agencies and Youth Civil Organizations in fighting corruption the committee for fighting corruption in the youth consultative council held a symposium to discuss corruption in Yemen, in cooperation with the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA).

Mr. Oabeed Shareem, deputy chairperson of COCA, started the discussion by identifying the role of the COCA in fighting the widespread corruption within government agencies. "Our role is to report every corruption crime and transfer it to prosecution and justice courts", he said "we can not do more", Oabeed added.

He didn't give any further details about the role of COCA, the only

observing apparatus in the Yemeni government, but rather he held the NGOs and the society responsible of rooting out this uncontrolled phenomenon. "The society must have good awareness on corruption, starting from houses to schools then to organizations, specially youth ones unless this happens corruption will not be root out"

Mohammed Al-Qadhi, one of the attendants, commented on this saying corruption has a trend to social culture and needs to every effort and mean to change it " as we fight Israel by boycotting their products we should follow the same mean and boycott all corrupt officials whoever they are"

**The National Identity**  
Amr Abdol Galeel of the youth consultative council, explained the concept of the national identity in a paper presented at the symposium, he stated that it is a number of elements and links

which tie people and make a common consensus between the people: "aren't blood, language, religion, sect, culture and traditions in common these links and ties? ... or is it the Economic Interests, the government that manages their affairs, the Historical Memory of all their prides and achievements?" he further questioned.

"Yes all of these are the links and elements that make our National Identity and they are, at the same time are the elements of disintegration and civil wars if misused and wrongly performed." Abdol Galeel answered.

On another hand, Abdurrahman Barman from HOOD Organization for Rights Defense sees the oppression, corruption, poverty, are the reasons of weakening the National Identity within people towards their nations.

**Questionnaire on Corruption**  
Five days before the symposium,

300 questionnaire were distributed to each employee in different official and civilian's authorities this questioner aims to unveil the corruption average in the identified authorities, "the results of the questionnaire were disappointing where most of the authorities rejected the papers like Taxes Authority" said Waleed Abdul Hafeed chairman of the Youth Consultative Council " while the ministry of foreign affairs refused even to look at it " he added.

"However, there were some other authorities welcomed the initiative and answered all the question papers presented to them still others who took the papers and didn't return them to us. " said Abdol Hafeed .

About the outcomes of such initiatives in limiting and fighting corruption said Abdol Hafeed,"what we discovered is that the corruption is rampant from top to bottom in each questioned authority"

Continued from page 1

## New Cabinet members announced

The new Cabinet swore an oath before President Saleh on Saturday, after which he chaired a meeting with the new government, outlining its future tasks and the responsibilities laid upon them as members.

Saleh also told them that war should be declared against corruption and corrupt officials, noting that there will be no intervention in government tasks and work.

He further demanded the ministers abandon nepotism, fight price hikes and fix prices to improve citizens' living standards.

For his part, Prime Minister Mujawar pointed out that his government will be responsible for any shortcomings; however, he requested non-intervention by government authorities.

### New ministers' CVs

- Ali Mohammed Mujawar – Prime Minister**
- Born 1953 in Shabwa
  - B.A. in economic administration from Algeria University, 1981
  - M.A. in economic administration from France's Grenoble University, 1987
  - Ph.D. in production administration from Grenoble University, 1991
  - Member of higher studies, business management department, Aden University's Faculty of Management
  - Dean of the Faculty of Oil and Minerals, 1999-2001
  - Deputy minister of Civil Service and Insurance
  - General manager of Al-Barah Cement Factory
  - Minister of Fish Wealth, 2003
  - Minister of Electricity in the last government reshuffle, 2006
- Mustafa Yahya Baharan – Minister of Electricity**
- Born 1957 in Ibb
  - Ph.D. in nuclear physics from the U.S., 1992
  - Head of the National Committee

- for Nuclear Energy
  - Staff member, Faculty of Education
- Judge Hamoud Abdulhamid Al-Hitar – Minister of Endowments**
- Born 1955 in Ibb
  - M.A. in civil judiciary from Egypt's High Institute of Judiciary, 1983
  - Chairman of the Sana'a and Al-Jawf Appeals Court
  - Chairman of the Penal Department
  - Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council
  - Member of the General Assembly of Yemeni Scholars Association
  - Head of the Capital Appeals Court, 1994-1998
- Abdulqader Ali Hilal – Minister of Local Administration**
- Born 1962 in Sana'a governorate
  - B.A. in police and law and Sharia, 1984
  - Deputy governor of Ibb and Ibb governor, 1996
  - Hadramout governor, 2001-2007
  - Member of the Yemeni-German Friendship Association
  - Member of the Charitable Society for Supporting Al-Aqsa Al-Shareef

- Saleh Sumi'e – Minister of Expatriate Affairs**
- Born 1955 in Mahwit
  - Ph.D. in constitutional law from Egypt, 1988
  - Staff member at Sana'a University's Sharia and Law Faculty
- Noman Taher Al-Souhaibi – Finance Minister**
- Born 1965 in Al-Sadda, Ibb
  - B.A. in accounting from Sana'a University
  - Deputy chairman of the Tax Authority, 2001-2005
  - Chairman of the Tax Authority, 2005-2007

- Kamal Hussein Al-Jabri – Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology**
- Born 1964 in Sana'a
  - B.A. in electronic engineering from the U.S., 1990
  - Director of the General Corporation of Wire and Wireless Telecommunications
  - Member of the General Authority for Post and Postal Savings board of directors
  - Member of the General Corporation for Telecommunications board of directors
  - Member of the TeleYemen board of directors
- Mansour Ahmed Al-Houshabi – Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation**
- Born 1955 in Ibb
  - Assistant professor at Sana'a University's Faculty of Agriculture
  - Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, 2004

- Ibrahim Omar Hajri – Minister of Technical and Vocational Education**
- Born 1961 in Hodeidah
  - B.A. in computer science from Kuwait, 1985
  - M.A. in statistics from Kuwait, 1989
  - Ph.D. in statistics from the U.S., 1998
  - Assistant professor at Hodeidah University's Faculty of Education, 1988-1993
  - Assistant professor at Dweller University
  - Dean of the Faculty of Education, 1999-2004
  - Deputy president of Hodeidah University for High Studies and Scientific Research, 2004

- Mohammed Abu Bakr Al-Mafhahi – Minister of Culture**
- Born 1949 in Yafe'e, Lahj
  - B.A. in geography from Libya, 1974

- Diploma in higher studies on population growth from the U.K., 1978
- M.A. in educational administration from the U.S., 1990
- Ph.D. in educational administration from the U.S., 1993
- Director of Economic Development in Aden at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Director of Higher Education Development, 2003
- Head of Administration and Education Planning at Sana'a University's Faculty of Education, 1997-2003
- Dean of Sana'a University's Faculty of Social Science, 1998-2002

- Khalid Ibrahim Al-Wazir – Minister of Transport**
- Born 1971 in Sana'a
  - B.A. in law and Sharia from Sana'a University
  - High diploma in maritime law from Cairo
  - Chairman of the General Authority for Maritime Affairs board of directors and legal consultant for the Minister of Transport, 2001-2007
  - Director of the General Administration of Legal Affairs and the General Authority for Maritime Affairs, 1998-2002

- Huda Al-Ban – Human Rights Minister**
- Born 1959 in Lahj
  - B.A. in economics from Aden University, 1982
  - M.A. with distinction in economic science from Ukraine, 1987
  - Ph.D. in economic science from Ukraine, 1992
  - Assistant professor of economics at Aden University
  - Secretary-general of the National Committee for Education, Culture and Science
  - Advisor to the Ministry of Education

## Worshippers nearly burned alive, culprit caught

Al-Showmi, a young man around 25 years old, had suffered stress-related disorder for the past four months. Having been treated at the local hospital, he reportedly had improved and was brought home. His mental illness was caused by personal conflict with his father, who was praying with other worshippers at the mosque. Al-Showmi's brother said Hamid was angry with his father and hence, tried to burn him alive at the Friday prayer service.

Abdulkarim Rasa', who maintained his post as Health Minister in the new Cabinet, visited the patients in Amran to check on them and ensure their adequate treatment. Many patients conveyed their satisfaction regarding the state medical care and felt sorry for the culprit because of his mental disorder. However, others weren't so forgiving and believe the state should take standard action in such criminal incidents. In fact, some patients even accused Al-Showmi of being a follower of the Houthi rebellion in Sa'ada.

Although speculated by some

media, local security confirmed that there's no relation and the Sa'ada conflicts north of Amran have nothing to do with religious sects in the area.

This incident is the third of its kind in Amran, as a similar one occurred in 2001 when an assailant randomly fired on a group of worshippers in a Yanour area mosque while they were performing asha'a prayer, killing three and injuring others.

Another incident occurred in 2003 when an unidentified individual threw a bomb at worshippers in a mosque in Houth district's Al-Khamri area, killing one worshipper and injuring two others

**Sa'ada war: expanding fronts and tactics, increasing victims**

A source at Al-Salam Saudi Hospital said the victims from March alone were 1,199 personnel, including 139 dead, 61 injured from landmines implanted by the Yemeni army, 56 burn cases and 43 handicapped cases due to falls from high places. The same source added that other victims were transported via helicopter directly to the Military Hospital in Sana'a, in addition to hospitals in other govern-

ment last Friday afternoon, calling for a peaceful march in Sa'ada city. Participants will call for intervention by wise individuals to halt the war and return the city to its normal life after residents' discomfort with the continuing war, which has suspended their businesses and spread disease, along with displacing residents from their homes and villages.

The document, which is still being signed, pleads with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and all wise men in the country to intervene to help war-affected locals and halt the war, as well as enable them to buy foodstuffs and medicines and lead their daily lives, particularly when their businesses have been suspended and farms damaged in Sa'ada and other districts.


Local authorities in Sa'ada last week detained eight individuals from Muftah district due to their stance on the Sa'ada war. Sources close to the detainees declared that the sons of Muftah district denounce the act, especially since the detainees were arrested without any clear indictment, except studying at Houthi summer camps prior to the eruption of the first Sa'ada war in 2004. The sources added that most of the detainees are underage.

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## Student journalists learn about climate change



We should give more attention to the environment. Every nation should engage in such a process because we all live on one planet.

By: Moneer Al-Omari

Students from across Yemen and the Gulf recently participated in regional workshop on climate change conducted by the Yemen-based British Council. The students were chosen from schools in Yemen, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Tim Radford of the Guardian newspaper and Alex Kirby of the BBC lectured during the workshop directed at "Tomorrow's Journalists."

The workshop aimed to teach the young journalists the basics of writing articles about environmental issues and then reflecting them in school publications and newspapers. It also sought to help the students understand environmental problems and communicate them to the public. Thus, they can share their similar experiences, particularly since they are from the same region where the environmental concerns are nearly the same.

Further, the workshop was an extension of a climate project conducted last June, July and September in Mukalla. Entitled "South, North, East and West," the project also included an exhibition of lectures and photographs on climate change. Additionally, the British Council delegated 12 leading photographers to document climate change across the globe.

To their surprise, they discovered shocking realities about Earth's climate and environmental situation, with one finding that Mount Kilimanjaro's peak no longer has ice. They also discovered that ice at both poles is melting, thus raising sea levels and leading to more floods.

At a reception honoring Tomorrow's Journalists last Monday, Kirby commented that the environment should concern everyone, maintaining that more attention should be given to the

environment in order to diminish the risky effects incurred by humanity.

He added that it's necessary to cause the public to have a sense of these problems; therefore, young journalists can reflect such concerns in their school publications. Their stories also can find their way to local newspapers and magazines in their home countries.

At the reception, Minister of Water and Environment Abdurrahman Fadhl Al-Eryani stressed that the present generation should take care of the younger ones, maintaining that we shouldn't let them down. In this regard, he hinted at Yemen's water crisis resulting from citizens' unwise use of water.

Al-Eryani noted that there should be partnership between countries, adding that environmental consideration should be done at a regional level, as any harm in one country will affect others.

He further asserted that many Arab problems stem from lack of awareness, explaining that such a workshop helps raise awareness and spread a culture of environmental protection.

For her part, Yemen's British Council Director Elizabeth White pointed out that the council, which operates in 102 nations worldwide, has exerted much effort to spread awareness about climate change and its future risks.

She went on to say that the students were brought together in Yemen to learn about environmental problems resulting from fuel over consumption and pollution ensuing from oil extraction and treatment operations, pointing out that they are the ones who will live with the consequences and be affected by environmental problems.

"We should give more attention to the environment. Every nation should engage in such a process because we all live on one planet," White concluded.



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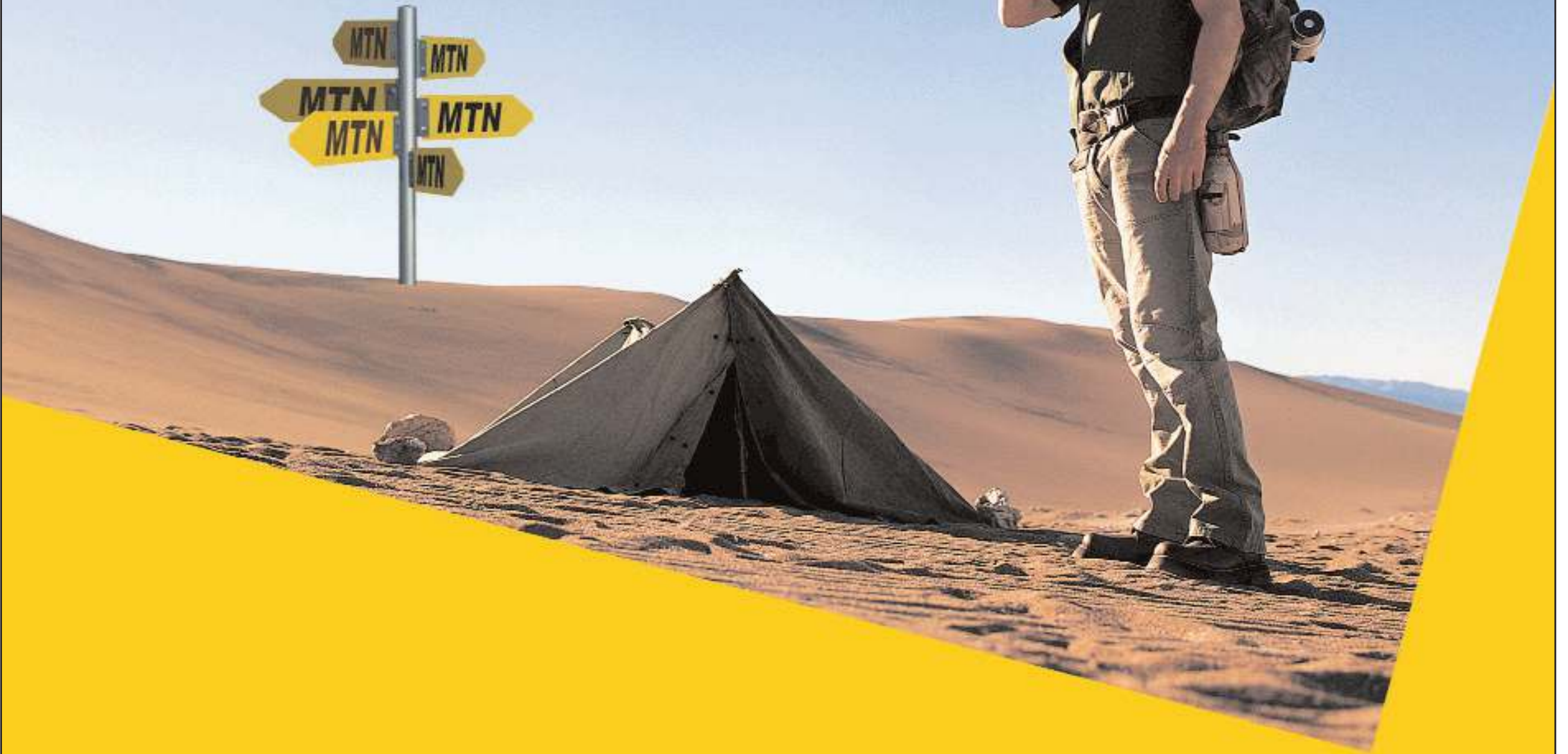
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معك في كل مكان

# Neglected Minorities cry for help

By: Almgid Dahesh Mojali  
Dahesh95@yahoo.com  
For the Yemen Times

**P**overty and complete absence of government care for the marginalized black minority in Yemen are the main reasons for the misery and troubles this minority faces. Most Yemenis consider those of this minority disgraceful and not worthy of having any type of relationship with them. Not only this, but the minority's misery and destitution have caused many citizens to spread bad rumors about this persecuted minority.

The main financial resource for families in this minority is to work as street cleaners and they cooperate with one another to cope with the problems they face. Ayesh Ali, deputy chief of the minority, explains, "Our usual work is to clean streets, but the salary, which is YR 17,000, does nothing for us, so we sometimes work for private cleaning companies."

He continues, "All of us are very poor and some families have many members and no father. Such families receive very little money from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs every three months, in addition to their YR 6,000 salary – and this is in the best situations. Despite the severe poverty we suffer, our community is very cooperative, where you'll find that we collect money for those families with ill members."

Although a minority of blacks clean streets, this doesn't mean the government doesn't allow them to work in other fields, as they are considered Yemeni citizens with the same rights and obligations as any others.

Sameer Ahmed Abdu, 24, a member



Children are the prime victims of state neglect for minorities, no education, no sanitary living conditions, and no future.

of this community, explains, "We work as street cleaners because we don't have qualifications, although we're allowed to go to school and university. We go to school in the beginning, but the problem is that the more you progress in your studies, the more money you need."

Umm Abdu Omer, 35, expresses, "Our children are allowed to go to school and university. In fact, our neighbor is a sports teacher at a public school. However, the problem is that we're destitute. We don't have money

to feed our children, so how can we send them to school?"

Poverty and state negligence affect not only the marginalized black minority's economic and educational aspects, but also health aspects. As a result of the destitute situations the minority endures, they can't provide healthy food or pay for health care services, which cost a lot, both at public and private hospitals. Consequently, many suffer various diseases, which sometimes are infectious.

Moamar Sa'eed, 32, complains, "How do you want the state to provide us with health care services when it doesn't give anyone any type of health care, let alone us? Those hospitals pretending to be public and free take as much from us as private hospitals. The only difference between public and private hospitals is that we receive better care in the private ones and they don't extort us like the public ones do."

He continued, "I took my mother to Al-Thawra Hospital, where she spent two months. She left after I had spent YR 700,000 without any benefit. I then took her to a private hospital and spent less than a month there but with good result."

Umm Yahya Najeeb, 44, stresses, "Many of our children suffer from numerous diseases, especially during

winter, but we often don't take them to hospitals or clinics because we don't have money and, as you know, even the public hospitals require money. Really, I wonder why they call them public and free?"

The only aid this minority receives is from Al-Saleh Corporation and a Sudanese organization called Own. Al-Saleh Corporation camps for two weeks a year and supplies health care services.

As the minority's deputy chief Ali explains, "We receive health aid from Al-Saleh Corporation and a Sudanese organization called Own. Al-Saleh Corporation spends two weeks a year treating the ill, providing them with medicine and lecturing a team of select individuals among us about first aid, AIDS and infectious diseases. We then teach others. The Sudanese organization comes once a year, but only to distribute medicine."

Poverty affects the economic, health and educational aspects of this minority's life, but not as much as it affects them socially. As Ali expresses painfully, "Many people spread rumors about us and about our customs and traditions. Some say we don't marry and that we perform sex illegally, while others say we don't fast and pray. Still others accuse us of eating our relatives

when they die instead of burying them, under the pretext that they've never seen us perform a funeral at the cemetery.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to tell them that we are Muslims exactly like you. We pray and fast, we marry and we bury our dead. How could we eat the bodies of our relatives?! What kind of person believes that? The only difference between others and us is that we bury our relatives as soon as they die, not waiting until many people come. Another difference is that they have approximately seven days for the condolence ceremony while we have only three," Ali concludes.

Mahmoud Mokred Abdu, 28, adds, "Because some of our women are unveiled and talk to others, some people think they may do anything illegitimate, but that's completely wrong. Many women are unveiled and many others talk to others, but this doesn't mean that any woman who talks to others is ready to have bad relations with others."

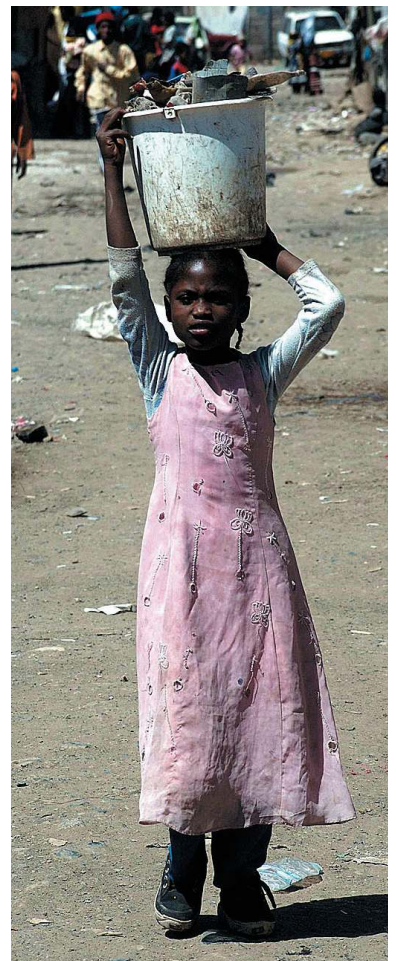
However, non-marginalized individuals don't hold this view. "They are poor and we respect them because they are respectful and earn their livelihood legally. They are better than many of those who steal public funds and boast about themselves," Abdulkarim Al-Najar observes.

The most prominent effect of poverty regarding social aspects is that others won't accept to marry such marginalized people, even if they're educated or the other party accepts the proposal.

Ali confirms, "Others won't accept to marry from us and we don't marry from them. For example, our neighbor's son wanted to marry a girl from Old Sana'a, but although she agreed, her father totally refused. However, when her father learned that they had married, he accepted it."

Some say poverty isn't the only reason why others won't accept to marry from or into the marginalized black minority. As 55-year-old Mohammed Mojali from a non-marginalized minority clarifies, "Poverty isn't the only reason to refuse marriage with them, as family ancestry is very important, regardless of economic situation. As you know, Yemeni society has many social layers and relations and differences play a strong role in selecting a family from which one will marry."

Abdulhamid Al-Yarimi, 45, has another opinion, "In my opinion, poverty is the main cause of all the troubles and defects that make us

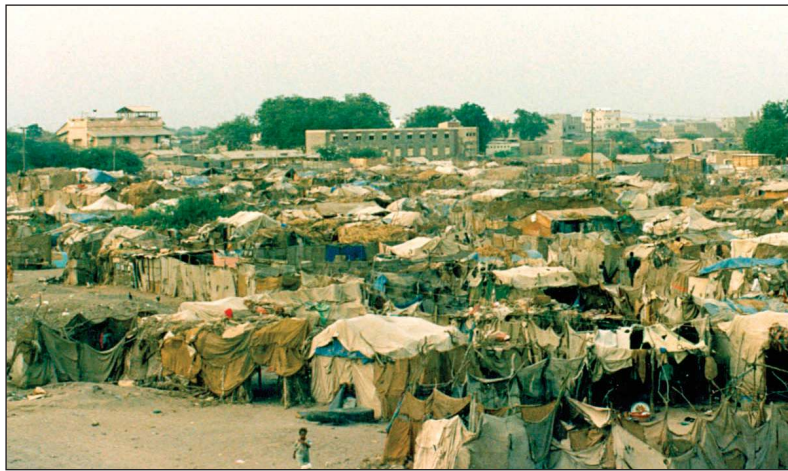


Minorities don't even have access to clean drinking water.

refuse young men from this minority. Due to poverty, they aren't educated, they have no suitable accommodations and no suitable jobs and that's enough to refuse them. We don't refuse them because they're poor; rather, because they can't provide a suitable life."

When one touches the life and reality of this poor marginalized minority, he easily finds that poverty severely affects all aspects of their lives except political rights, wherein the minority may exercise all of its political rights. "The only thing we have from the state is our political rights; thus, we have our representative on the district's local council and we exercise our political rights freely," 28-year-old Majed Obaad notes.

However, their political rights sometimes are taken by some means. As Samirah Ayooob, 35, explains, "We can exercise all of our political rights freely, but the problem is that during elections, some candidates come and buy our votes; thus, due to our severe poverty, most of us vote for the candidate who pays more."



Improper housing conditions add to the misery of minorities, this slum is located on the suburbs of Sana'a

## Tourism in Hadramout

By: Saleh Al-Batati  
For Yemen Times

**H**adramout is rich in natural wonders and tourist attractions that grab the attention of tourists from across the world. The number of tourist facilities in the governorate has increased to 110 to accommodate demand. The number of tourists rose to 28,000 last year, of whom 3,800 were recorded during both Eid holidays. Many of them spent most of their time in Al-Mukulla, Al-Ghail and Al-Shehr exploring the monuments

and attractions there.

Hadramout's Office of Tourism will publish brochures about cities and tourists attractions in Hadramout. Further, it will publish maps of Hadramout to help foreign visitors. The office will also embark on raising the profile of Hadramout among citizens highlighting the economic importance of tourism in the region. By raising the importance of the tourist industry to the economy they also hope to aid the recruiting of new workers for the burgeoning number of new restaurants, cafes and hotels. Moreover, it aims to enhance the awareness of the



Shibam-Hadramout skyscrapers of Yemen.

environment and the office will prepare radio and TV programmes to help disseminate environmental awareness among citizens there.

Hadramout has a lot of monuments, historical cities and a 350 mile long coastal strip which include varied types of coral reefs. It is therefore an ideal location for ecotourists attracted to its golden sands, therapeutic mineral water streams and natural reserves such as the Sharmah Reserve, a place nominated as a world nature reserve due to the existence of rare types of marine turtles.

"We have cooperated with the governorate officials and the Governor to set a plan for the protected areas and where building should be banned while promoting investment in sites in the area. We also aim to ensure that no harm comes to the turtles," said Hadramout Tourism Office head Fadhl

Nasser bin Al-Sheikh Ali.

Socotra Island is considered an important natural sanctuary and nature reserve including a diversity of rare flora and fauna. Plans have been finalised to implement ecotourist projects there. Further, the office will prepare a brochure in English and Arabic about the historical Al-Hajrin city to introduce it to local and foreign tourists together with Socotra and Khaylah. The ancient habitation of Shibam has also received recognition as an historical site of great beauty. It also figures prominently the Office of Wadi Hadramout's programme.

Many festivals are conducted in the governorates such as Al-Nakhail and Al-Sidr festivals. The festival of Al-Baldah is also an important festival in Hadramout. "We are planning to make this year's festival different from the previous ones as it will include, apart

from the ubiquitous music, diverse national folklore presentations and a tourist village will be built on the coast to present some of the historical models of the governorate's past. Public games together and artistic parties attended by national and foreign singers will also be held. God willing, it will be a distinctive festival", said Ali.

According to Ali, the capacity of hotels in Hadramout amounts to some five thousand rooms in total. Over the many coming period many five-star hotels are to be inaugurated such as Arab Sea Hotel, Bin Amr Chalet together with other projects which will meet the growing need for tourist accommodation.

The world situation, of course, affected tourism in Yemen especially when the global media magnify incidents out of all proportion to their actual importance. Publicity to counter

such negative images has been successful and we expect to receive some 50,000 tourists during 2007.

The non-participation of women is attributed to the social situation prevalent in the governorate. Nevertheless, women should actively participate in this regard because they are an important part of the tourist industry. We wish more girls would work in tourist facilities and, furthermore, we have opportunities for girls to study abroad. We ask every girl able to work in this field to join and we will grant her a scholarship to study abroad. These scholarships were provided by the state.

Many thanks for all those who participated in developing tourism in the governorate, particularly the governor Abdulqader Hilal who exerts continuous effort to upgrade tourism in Hadramout.

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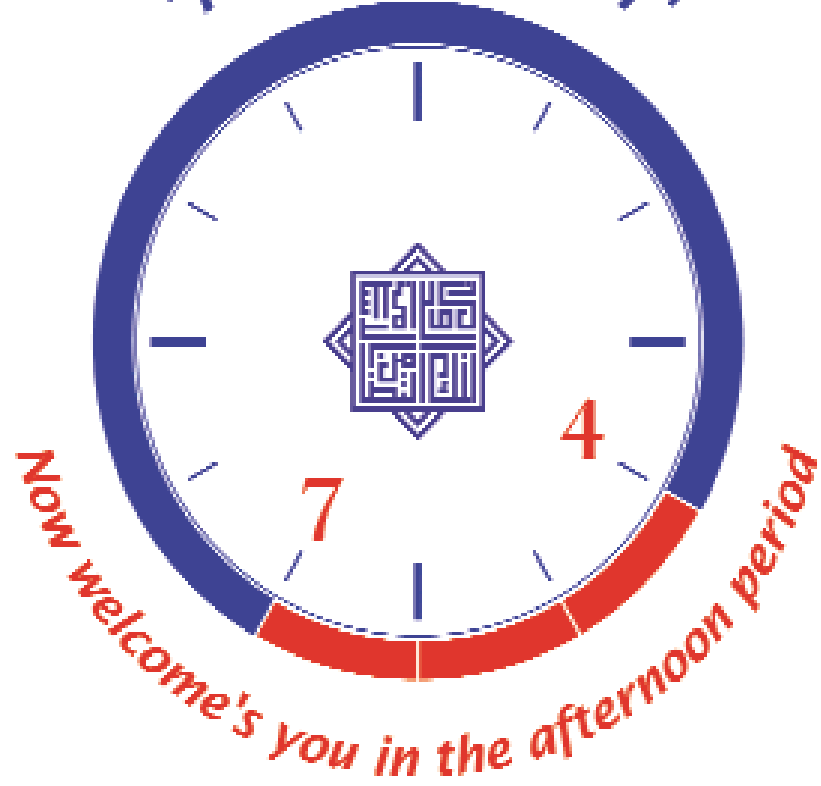
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Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful...

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



OUR OPINION

Compromised peace: Arabs and the Israelis through the threshold

Now that the Arab summit is over for the 19th time and the same agenda, it is probably a chance to come to a compromise and deal with our issues as Arab states...

How long will it be before the peace-for-land deal that was originally presented in 2002 be rejected? Germany has made the Middle East issues a priority during its six month presidency...

Again it is the waiting game before we discover how well the Arab summit went. Will Qadhafi be proved wrong for not believing in his fellow Arab leaders or will time prove him right?

How much more would Arabs need to compromise for peace to be established in the region? And will they walk the extra mile if that what it takes, even if it means losing popularity among their people?

Many speculate that this is a different summit and is one with concrete results. With the European Union's support and Saudi leadership perhaps there is a chance.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf Editor-in-Chief

Democratic experience of the soldiers

The soldiers of Mauritania have achieved the peaceful transfer of power in a democratic and successful manner. The vote results were announced a few days ago with the candidate Walad Al-Sheikh Abdullah winning the country's highest political post with a slim margin...



By: Ali Al-Sarari

processes of fair and free elections for the first time in its history.

Over a short time period, the Mauritanian experience has topped the list of Arab democracies, which are called democracies metaphorically but not in real-life situation.

Having an investigative glance at the nature of Arab regimes, other than Mauritania's, one finds that the model of the ousted president Walad Al-Taye'e is as many times repeated as the number of Arab countries controlled by the same backward minds with the same corrupt tools and the totalitarian means...

The Mauritanian polls constituted the first Arab experience in which the soldiers played a decisive role to achieve the democratic transformation. They were about to be the second experience after that of Sudan when Sower Al-Dhahab quit power in the 80s of the last century and handed the job to an elected cabinet, however the soldiers returned and implemented a coupe in 1989 and are still grasping power until now.

Today, the Mauritanian soldiers are the only armed force that earns appreciation and respect of the Arab people in different Arab countries. Compared to other Arab armies, the Mauritanian army is the only one that possesses a national democratic victory gifted to it by its people.

The Mauritanian democratic birth remained uneasy for many years under the ousted president Mawyah Walad Al-Taye'e.

Over time, the Arab military coupes of the last century have become separated from the announced goals progressed toward royal regimes with republican colors or what is known nowadays the inherited regimes.

Any way, the military regimes with the democratic tasks function as the new generation of coupes after the old coupes have run out of the justifications of their establishment and disappointed the Arab regimes.

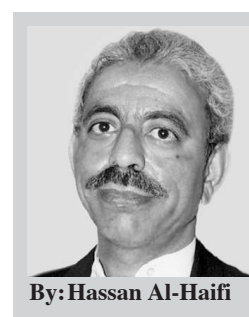
But, the Mauritanian armed forces, backed by the security apparatuses, implemented a military coupe against Al-Taye'e and deposed him from power along with his tenure. They then announced the Ruling Military Council under Ali Bin Mohammed Walad Fal, who, since taking the job, announced that the soldiers are ready to hand the power to civilians after a short transitional period.

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. Source: Al-Thawri Weekly.

COMMON SENSE

Stability is so very important

In coming and going to the Gulf States over the last 30 years or so, one can reasonably understand that the security and the STABILITY of a country is very vital to that country achieving a reasonable degree of sustainable development.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Yemen is seeking to become a bona fide member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and certainly has urgent reasons for seeking to become a nation with a healthy robust economy that needs to grow at the rate of at least 8% per annum.

The situation in Sa'ada is not a very good healthy sign that Yemen is indeed in the right direction in this context. This is the more so, when considering that Yemen has been undergoing a shaky unstable status almost for the past half century.

The Gulf countries, in contrast, are indeed endowed with a very sound economic base for achieving growth and for providing for more than just the basic needs of the people of the respective countries. But oil is not just the fundamental basis for achieving sustainable economic growth...

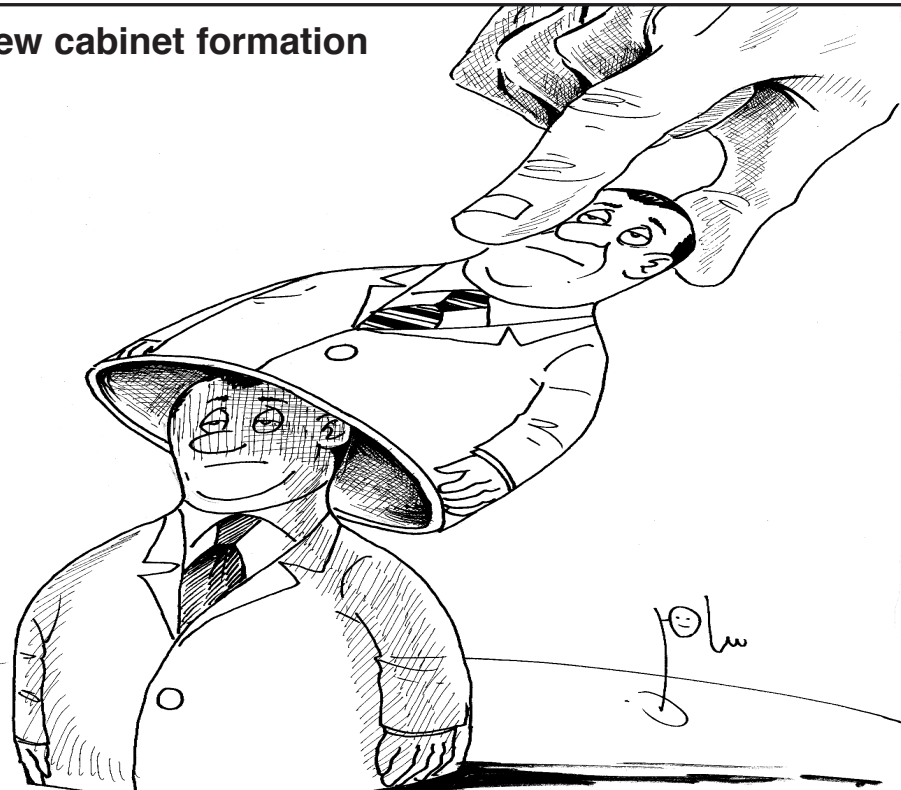
The point to be made here is that it is not sufficient to draw up economic plans that are based on theoretical models, many of which give little notice to the human factors involved in development.

Every year this observer has come to Qatar, one can see the importance of political and social stability, as the country witnesses the rapid development that the country continues to enjoy, which the observer cannot fail to see on the ground...

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

SKETCHED OPINION The new cabinet formation

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer

Letters to the Editor

Arab summit in Riyadh Congratulations to all the Arab leaders who met in Riyadh and offered a "Peace Plan" to Israel. "Blessed are the peacemakers," proclaim all the religious texts.

In the last year that I have lived in the Middle East, I have seen the people of Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine weep tears of blood, at the violence, and battles that rage in their countries.

Israel should study the "Peace Plan"

and respond by engaging in direct dialogue with the concerned parties. The core of the Peace Plan is Israel will have normal ties with all Arab states for a) return of land seized in 1967, b) creation of a Palestine state and c) just solution for Palestinians displaced in 1948...

These 3 conditions are merited. It is time the Palestinians too had a state of their own to live in and govern. I have met Palestinians refugees in a number of countries like Jordan, UAE etc. Even if the land given to some Palestine, may not be entirely to their satisfaction, they should reflect that some solution is better than no solution.

Regarding a "just solution of Palestinians displaced after the creation of Israel", this is an international/UN responsibility with Israel participating actively.

of Israel", this is an international/UN responsibility with Israel participating actively. The creation of Israel was an international decision and hence an international responsibility.

There come moments in history, which are very definitive. We have seen in movies like "Munich" and "Executive Decisions", and read in books like "Vengeance" and "One day in September", how many deaths and injuries have been caused by the ongoing violence in Palestine.

Rajendra K. Aneja rkaneja@emirates.net.ae

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# تهانينا Congratulations

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ممثلة بفخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح  
رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية  
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يتقدم

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وكافة موظفي ومنتسبي شركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم يمن وشركاؤها في قطاع المسيلة (١٤)  
بخالص التهاني وأطيب التبريكات

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**H.E. Mr. Khalid Mahfoudh Bahah, Minister of Oil & Minerals**

And the new Cabinet for holding the new government,

Wishing them all success and prosperity,

In their national responsibilities.

# Muslim worship draws many to Islam

By: Nisreen Shadad

The way of worship in Islam catches the attention of many. According to new Muslims, true happiness and mental peace is what they gain when they utter the Shahada: "There is no god but Allah and Mohammed is the messenger of Allah."

The Culture Center for Foreigners' Call held a welcoming party on April 6 to meet the new converts, which include four Filipinos (three women and a man) and two Indians (a woman and her brother). The men were received in the male section, while the women were in the female section.

Such new Muslims embrace everyone heartily, as if they previously knew such faces and had been gone for a long time. The signs of happiness spread cheer among all attendees while their smiles welcome everyone to ask what attracted them to Islam.

## Indian nurse converts

After living in Yemen for 15 years and working as a nurse in Taiz, Sali, an Indian woman, converted to Islam on April 3. "Whenever I've seen Muslims pray five times daily, I longed to do like them," she recalled.

"I like Muslims for their certainty about Allah. They remember Him and praise Him, for better or for worse," Sali adds, "People work not for materialistic gain, but for the sake of Allah."

She is the mother of a child and her husband lives in India. For Sali, Islam now means everything in her life. When her brother came from India to visit her, she introduced Islam to him, after which he accepted and became a Muslim. Both came to the Culture Center for Foreigners' Call to learn more about Islam and get books in their mother tongue in order to learn more.

## Bulgarian doctor is curious

Atanasra Petkova has been a doctor at a Sana'a hospital for three years and is one of the center's visitors. Although she is Christian, she came to the center to learn more about Islam. "What attracts me to Islam and made me curious to learn about



The center's library contains numerous books about Islam in 76 languages. Mohammed Noor considers the library of great importance, "I was a missionary working in a church for a long time. I then listened to Ahmed Deedat, converted to Islam and became a daeeya (caller)."

causes worry, grief, fear and sadness, which are far more than the pleasure of fulfilling the desire, or it causes you to forget some knowledge that would be better remembered than satisfying one's desire. Either it makes an enemy rejoice and a friend sad or it prevents expected grace from reaching you or it causes a flaw or characteristic that will remain permanently. Indeed, deeds are the means of developing qualities and character."

## Building a solid foundation on Islam

Yahya continues, "To know Allah is for whoever wants his establishment built to Allah to be high. Al-aqeeda [belief] is the foundation of Islam, so we should take great care of it because it's according to the consolidation of the foundation that one's establishment can reach the heights and stand firm. Further, it will be able to hold the establishment, as well as add more to it. Also, when any part of the establishment is destroyed, it will be easy to repair."

"However, when the foundation isn't firm enough, the establishment won't be able to be constructed and won't be stable. When any part of the foundation is

destroyed, the establishment will collapse - or it won't stand for long before it is destroyed."

"The one who is profoundly knowledgeable about Allah will be interested in consolidating his foundation and strengthening it. An ignorant person will be interested in constructing, but without taking care of the foundation, and in no time, his establishment," Yahya concluded.



Sali's brother and Mohammed Edgardo said the Shahada.

this religion is a patient who comes to me for massage. When he leaves, many people often gather around him. When I asked others the reason for this, they replied, 'Those people are in need; therefore, they come to this man to give them money.'"

She continued, "This man gives to people without exception and for no materialistic purposes. Not only that, he's a man of high qualities. The next time, I asked him the reason for such behavior and his response was 'Islamic teaching.' He told me about this center to learn more about Islam in my mother tongue of Bulgarian."

## Islam purifies hearts, Ibn Al-Qayyim says

Umm Yousef Yahya, one of the workers at the center, explains, "Islamic instruction is interested in purifying people's hearts. The well-known scholar Ibn Al-Qayyim described this when writing:

Restraining oneself from fulfilling unlawful desires is easier than enduring that which causes pain and punishment or it will prevent a more perfect pleasure than could ever be experienced in this worldly life. Either it kills time, to the extent that it causes regret, or it defiles honor, whose preservation is more beneficial and worthy to the servant. Either it takes away some wealth that would be better saved than wasted or it derogates a reputation that would be better praised. Also, it either will remove some grace, which would be better preserved, or it debases you and makes you subservient to lowly people. Also, it

destroyed, the establishment will collapse - or it won't stand for long before it is destroyed."

"The one who is profoundly knowledgeable about Allah will be interested in consolidating his foundation and strengthening it. An ignorant person will be interested in constructing, but without taking care of the foundation, and in no time, his establishment," Yahya concluded.

## Monotheism is important

Fatima Al-Bakri, director of the women's section at the Culture Center for Foreigners' Call, mentions that Surat Al-Ikhlâs implies the importance of monotheism, also noting that Allah says in the same sura, "He begetteth not, nor is He begotten."

She further referred to a Bible verse (New International Version) in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 12, verse 28, under the title, the Greatest Commandments: "One of the teachers of the law asked Him [Jesus], 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' [Jesus answered:] 'The most important one is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord.'"

## Filipino conversions

Former Christians Wafa Sobremote and Mohammed Edgardo also converted to Islam because of the way of worshiping God. "We pray five times daily and directly," Sobremote notes.

Edgardo was puzzled about the concept of God. "A lot of questions were in my mind: Who is the true God? Is our way of worshiping God being accepted? I

## 72 years of watching

"I'm pleased to take this opportunity to tell you about myself and how I became a Muslim. I married my husband, Mohammed S. Hamran, in 1981. Although I said the Shahada then, I didn't practice Islam regularly. At that time and during all this time, I've been watching my husband and family members closely, not only praying regularly, but also performing and living their life in an Islamic way. Whenever they finish their salat, I notice their faces shining."

For 72 years, Hamran observed her husband and children performing Islamic instructions in a good manner and, according to her, no one forced her or obliged her to do something she didn't want.

She continued, "One day, I had a problem, so I talked to my husband about it and he replied, 'My help is limited, it's nothing beside your Creator's. The only one who can help whenever you're in need is Allah, but you must be obedient to Him and then he'll surely answer your call.'"

Hamran says her husband gave her everything she wanted; however, she still lacked something. "I remember the evening when I repented. I took a shower and slept peacefully that night. I got up early, like all my family members, and performed al-fajr prayer. I'm so happy since my life has started to change a little bit for the better." However, what affected Hamran more was knowing the truth, but not accepting it.

## Islam creates balance

Hana'a Al-Rahabi explains how Islamic instruction creates balance in one's life. "If we look at a good Muslim's day, we can see how Islamic instruction creates a balance between his spiritual and physical needs. In the morning, a good Muslim begins his day with al-fajr prayer, after which he goes to work feeling that Allah is with him wherever he goes or whatever he does. If something bad harms him, he is patient, whereas if he gains something good, he thanks Allah. In both cases, a good Muslim knows that Allah will reward him for his patience and his thanks."

"At al-thahr prayer, he returns to renew his faith and meet Allah spiritually. Whenever he had a problem, the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) used to pray to gain peace and relax both his heart and mind. After al-thahr, Muslims usually rest and have lunch."

"Al-asr prayer is a call to renew the relationship and energize the soul to begin his worldly work, which he's doing for the sake of Allah, so that he'll be rewarded. When a good Muslim works to gain money and feed his family, his work is considered worship," she notes.

"Similarly, are al-maghrib and al-asha'a prayers. Just as a Muslim begins his day in surrender to his Creator, he also ends his day by surrendering to Allah (in al-asha'a prayer)," Al-Rahabi concluded.

The Culture Center for Foreigners' Call addresses Islam in numerous languages. Additionally, various courses are held at the center, including Arabic and English courses and comparative religion.

# Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalima Al-Tayybah

## Culture and the Revolution in Yemen

**Subject Book:** Culture and the Revolution in Yemen

**Author:** Abdullah Al-Baradooni

**Language:** Arabic

**Publisher:** Arab Writer's Press

**Year Published:** 1991 AD

**No. of Pages:** 574

I

For most Yemeni intellectuals, specifically and many of their peers in the rest of the Arab World, Mr. Abdullah Al-Baradooni is a renowned figure in the world of poetry and literary criticism. Moreover, Al-Baradooni is highly regarded for his extensive work in researching the history of Yemeni literature, especially of the most recent epoch - the post Ottoman, Imamic and post Revolutionary period, extending over the last Century. Although afflicted with blindness from a very early age (around 6 years) from Smallpox, most admirers of Mr. Baradooni will recognize the tireless author of many books, including at least 11 poetic collections and at least six studies on Yemeni political developments and cultural traits of Yemen. The author was also an active writer for several newspapers, especially 26th September, in which he delved on several issues: political, literary, and cultural. He was a strong advocate for the eradication of corruption and influence peddling citing the situation in Yemen in one of the articles he wrote in 26th September as the "most corrupt in the history of mankind". His outspoken political views led to his arrest by the regime in both pre-Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary Yemen as he lashed out against oppression and the excessive use of power for self-enrichment. His views on religious extremism led to threats from unknown extremists. Even with his life threatened, Al-Baradooni refused police protection or armed guards. He continued to live a modest life, refusing to accept gifts and gratuities from political figures

at home and abroad. He attended several literary events and received national Arab recognition for his outspoken poetry against oppression, whether by traditional "reactionary" regimes or the "progressive" military juntas that arose out of the coups against the former. He passed away in August 31, 1999. For more insights into the life of Baradooni, see this link: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9A00E7D6113BF932A0575BC0A96F958260>

The book under review here basically gives an account of the cultural developments that helped nurture the generation that was to launch the Yemeni Revolution of September 26, 1962 against the Imamate. He dedicates the book to the 'Nation and the People', which we presume to be the people of all the Arab World., as well as those of Yemen.

Chapter One sets the beginning of the Yemeni Revolutionary Culture as going back to the time of the leaving of the Turkish Ottomans in 1918. At that time the author suggests that the Yemeni culture of newly formed political aspirants split into two camps. There were those Yemenis who sided with the Imamate opposition to the Turks, because the Turks contested the right of the Imams to rule Yemen as they have been doing for a thousand years and this undermined the independence of the country. They also accused the Ottomans of corrupting the religion from its intended purposes and even rejecting religious jurisprudence by not applying the punishments defined by Islamic law against some social vices like drinking alcoholic beverages, etc. On the other hand there were those Yemenis, especially those that were able to obtain employment with the Turkish Administration of Yemen that saw the Turks as universally accepted by Moslems to embody the Islamic State/ Moreover, the Turks were generally obedient to Islamic doctrine, following the major rites of worship and avoiding

any major infractions of faith, etc. In addition the Turks brought peace and security and protected the roads for travelers, etc. Otherwise one would have the chaos that existed in the North for centuries and the rule of the English as in the South. The supporters of the Imamate did insist that the Turks only returned to Yemen, to prevent the English from expanding their domain in the Arabian Peninsula and even recognized the Imam. In this context the supporters of Turkish rule emphasized the need to unite the Turkish and Yemenis to counter the British as an "Islamic Force". The author suggests that the Imamate supporters had the upper hand as the Yemenis felt that there was more harm to the presence of the Turks than good and the accusations by the proponents of Turkish rule were not convincing when noting the 'massacres by the Yemeni tribesmen against anyone associated with the Turks. However the supporters of Imamate rule suggested that there were many crimes of indecency undertaken by the Turks, especially against Yemeni women in the agricultural countryside.

These minor political divisions were to be replaced by the venue brought on by the Tehama wars that erupted between the newly independent Yemen and the rapidly expanding domain of the Al-Saud clan in the Arabian Peninsula. This brought on the debate of why the Yemenis were not able to keep the Saudis from entering Tehama and reach as far South and East as Manakha. While the proponents of the Imam would make note of the ample support that the Saudis received from the English in the form of vehicles and arms, while Yemen continued to shun foreign support. This brought on the discussion of how the Islamic state should really be governed, where some people sought to return to the rule of the Orthodox Caliphs and others began to see the time as calling for an end to autocratic rule and the right of rulers to levy taxes (Zakat) and divert their spending from their intended purpose.

# AMIDEAST

## POSITIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

**Job Title:** Educational Adviser  
**Department:** AMIDEAST/Sana'a  
**Closing Date:** April 10, 2007

Position primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to: conducting free group advising sessions on studying and training in the U.S. on a regular schedule at all AMIDEAST locations; organizing and conducting outreach and information sharing programs as well as workshops to varied public institutions around Yemen interested in U.S. higher education, U.S. examinations/tests, and academic exchange opportunities; and managing the latest information resources on U.S. higher education, Yemeni education, standardized testing, bulletins and catalogues, and other reference, educational and professional development materials. The Educational Adviser must be able to travel around the capital, between AMIDEAST locations, and around the country.

### REQUIREMENTS:

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- Accurate touch keyboarding

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter mentioning the post they are applying for and resume via e-mail to [yemen@amideast.org](mailto:yemen@amideast.org) by close of business, April 11, 2007. No phone calls please.

# A global skin disease on the loose

## Efforts needed to eradicate leishmania in Yemen

By: Jamal Al-Najjar  
jamalnajar@hotmail.com

More than 350 million people are threatened by leishmania in 88 countries around the world, especially given that it's endemic in most developing countries. However, declaration of the disease is compulsory in only 32 countries, including Sudan, India and Saudi Arabia, whereas it's still neglected in more than 56 countries, which may lead to more victims and create numerous social problems, as it's one of the major enemies causing skin deformations.

Leishmania is a parasitic disease transmitted to humans by the bite of an insect vector called phlebotomine sandfly, which mainly lives in wet and dirty areas. Sandflies primarily become infected by feeding on animals; thus, when a female sandfly feeds on human blood, its painful sting injects the victim

with the parasite.

Cutaneous, mucocutaneous and visceral are all forms of leishmania. With the third form considered fatal, the risk of the first and the second ones consists in skin deformity and other external parts due to lesions caused by the parasite.

The disease's cutaneous form causes ulcers on exposed parts of the skin, such as the face, arms and legs. The disease produces lesions on these parts, often leaving its victims to lead a difficult social life due to anomalous skin scarring.

Mucocutaneous leishmania infects the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and throat cavities, consequently causing serious deformations.

Leishmania's visceral form affects the internal parts of the body and can be characterized by swelling of the spleen and liver, irregular bouts of fever, substantial weight loss and anemia. The mortality rate for this form can be as high as 100 percent within two years if left untreated.



Though not fatal, visceral leishmania destroys the skin. The lesions remain localized in the skin and skin ulcers develop.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 12 million people are infected with leishmania, at approximately 2 million infections worldwide every year (1.5 million for cutaneous leishmaniasis and 500,000 visceral infections). The disease enjoys a wider distribution due to environmental and human-made factors.

The main risk factors related to cutaneous leishmaniasis are building dams and new irrigation schemes, which contribute to sandfly reproduction patterns in animal reservoirs. Concerning visceral leishmaniasis, irrigation plays a major role in disseminating the disease.

Additionally, wars, the proximity of homes to cowsheds and disruption of health services amplify the problem. Malnutrition also contributes to increasing the disease's severity, which increases due to weak immunity. Cracks and crevices in the walls of homes made of mud and dried grass provide shelter for sandflies, the main carriers of leishmania parasites.

Additionally, the spread of HIV

infection brings about the severe visceral form of leishmania and increases the disease's epidemiology in dangerous ways. The two coexist in a deadly synergy, as HIV destroys the immune system; thus, the potential for visceral leishmania increases.

While leishmania threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis, especially children, cooperation between governments and organizations is required in order to eradicate the disease, which is endemic in several Yemeni governorates.

Visceral leishmania is the most common form in Yemen, whereas the other two forms are considered rare. Sandflies live in valleys with flowing streams, such as Wadi Sardood, Hawaren, Lahima and Raija. Children are more subjected to the disease than adults, especially those between ages 1 and 7.

Leishmania is diagnosed by the parasite's demonstration in the aspirates of the spleen, bone marrow or lymph nodes. Because it's not a vaccine-preventable disease, its elimination is only possible via combat campaigns to provide infected individuals with medicine, in addition to educating them to be aware of the parasite's transmission circle.

However, numerous experiments and research have been conducted over the past 20 years in several countries in cooperation with international non-governmental organizations concerned with the disease in order to prepare a vaccine that can immunize people against leishmania parasites.

Islah Charitable Association recently called on international NGOs working in Yemen to support its combat efforts to eradicate the disease in Hodeidah, Hajjah, Sana'a, Raima and Mahwit governorates where the disease is widespread.

Dr. Isam Al-Din Awadh, director of the association's leishmania combat project,



Visceral leishmania is more prevailing in Yemen than the other forms especially among children.

noted that he discussed with 25 international NGO representatives the association's combat efforts, as well as those of the Ministry of Public Health, which is conducting eradication campaigns in three governorates. Awadh's call came during a workshop organized by WHO in the United States a few weeks ago. He further mentioned that the association suggested to the workshop participants to hold a conference about the disease in Yemen to be attended by experts and international NGOs concerned with the disease. He added that Adrian Hopkins, director of the combat group, promised to adopt the suggestion and contact group members in order to prepare for the Yemeni conference.

According to the association's statistics, more than 282,000 citizens benefited from the leishmania combat project from 2001 to 2006. The project still is conducting field visits in the five targeted governorates, training volunteers in combat methods.

According to Dr. Qayed Ahmed Al-Haddad, head of Saba'een Hospital's pediatric emergency unit, the hospital receives approximately 10 leishmania patients per month, mostly from Raima, Taiz, Hodeidah and Amran governorates.

He explained that leishmania patients in Yemen face two major problems, the first of which relates to the scarcity of medicine to treat the disease. "Leishmania medicine is rare, but sometimes can be found with drug smugglers, in which case it costs between YR 20,000 and YR 30,000," he noted.

The second problem relates to lack of coordination between NGOs concerned with the disease. "We sometimes receive cases urgently requiring immediate treatment because they arrive late from rural areas. However, we sometimes can't offer proper care to patients, so we transfer them to other hospitals. Direct cooperation between NGOs and hospitals is of vital importance in order to help patients who reach the hospital at severe risk," Al-Haddad pointed out.

## More cooperation required to enhance Yemeni water sector reforms

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

Experts confirm that the National Water Supply Strategy and Investment Program (NWSSIP) requires further efforts by both the government and donor NGOs to implement the reform policy, particularly relating to groundwater and irrigation systems in rural areas.

This came during a March 31 workshop on poverty and social impact analysis for water sector reforms. Participants suggested that the impacts of reforms should include equity in various segments of the

population, especially poor groups. Additionally, NWSSIP implementation should be improved through continuous monitoring and evaluation, as well as practice studies to develop the mechanism of the program.

The NWSSIP was approved in 2005 as an action plan and investment program for the Yemeni water sector, which includes both urban and rural water supply and sanitation, irrigation and watershed management, water resource management and environmental protection. The sector's key donors are the World Bank, Germany and the Netherlands.

The first joint annual review for 2005-2006 described the Yemeni water sector's overall performance as "moderately satisfactory," while insisting that budget performance was "unsatisfactory."

The total five-year NWSSIP investment program will cost \$153.8 million: 27.9 percent financed by the Yemeni government, 35.8 percent by donors and 36.3 percent yet unfinanced. To achieve NWSSIP objectives, the water sector requires an estimated \$307.6 million annual

disbursement for each of the five years; however, total disbursement was only \$102 million in 2005, leaving an estimated funding gap of \$205.6 million.

Yemen's water scarcity, increased diesel prices and expanding qat production threaten its water sector, which requires rapid and practical reform, especially in rural areas where most citizens are poor farmers.

Supporting community self-regulation and more participation by NGOs in the reform process, in

addition to group efforts based on joint coordination and study, are the major ways to help implement the water sector strategy, experts said.

A decentralized system can enhance the strategy's implementation and give local NGOs a wider scope for decision-making participation. Additionally, it can help increase the operational budgets of water sector branches in rural areas, according to the strategy.

Concerning qat production, some participants suggested that qat could

be imported into Yemen, as it consumes both large quantities of water and large areas of land. Minister of Water and Environment Abdulrahman Fadhl Al-Eryani said qat could be handled like other agricultural productions, in this case, being imported.

For his part, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Abdulmalik Al-Arashi confirmed that the ministry has implemented some measures related to qat production, including forbidding more planting.

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After the continuous evaluation throughout 6 months period 11 hotels reached the semi-final selection which was held at Sofitel Scribe in Paris, France on the 22nd of January 2007. Three participating Hotels reached the final for the environment section (Sofitel Taiz Hotel from Yemen, Sofitel Geneva from Switzerland and Sofitel Vienna from Austria). The subject which Sofitel Taiz Hotel won for is how to save water. The main actions that have been taken at the hotel have started by training the staff on how to save water and conserve its consumption throughout the operational departments, e.g: Kitchen, Laundry, etc, changing the plants and grass to suitable kinds that are adapting to the area and consume less water.

The whole team of Sofitel Taiz was involved into this project and its actions and the final stage was represented by Mr. Didier Morel the Area Manager of Accor Hotels in Yemen as well as Two Yemeni Staff who have shown to the jury committee clear information and details about Yemen, the culture, and about the project as first priority. The prize announcement evening was attended by Mr. Yann Caillère, Accor General Manager and the General Manager of Sofitel Hotels Worldwide.



# The controversy over fireworks use in Yemen

By: Yemen Times staff

People use fireworks on many occasions, such as weddings, religious eids and national holidays, to express happiness and enjoyment, but fireworks nowadays are used to hurt and disturb others without any response by the state or police. While state forbids commerce in fireworks, at the same time, takes no punitive action against wholesalers or fireworks retailers.

Although fireworks are used to express happiness, many citizens consider them an aid to disturbing and hurting others. As Abdulkarim Al-Obaidi describes, "Fireworks disturb us so much because people now use fake bombs, not fireworks. The sound of some of these fake bombs is exactly like that of real bombs. In the past, we used to hear fireworks, but we now hear bombs, not fireworks. It's wrong to call them fireworks. The first time I heard these bombs, I thought it was an explosion at a neighborhood house. All of the women and children were very frightened. Even now, we're scared when we hear such sounds."

He adds, "The one responsible for such disturbance is the state, which

easily allows the criminals – wholesalers – to bring fireworks into the country."

Younis Al-Ansi, 25, remarks, "I think fireworks are the most disturbing thing. Because many homes don't have yards and as a result of careless by some parents, many children play in the streets and like to play with fireworks. They disturb us so much."

A man requesting anonymity expressed, "We can't bear the disturbance of fireworks and fake bombs used at weddings and daily on our streets. Our women and children are frightened. It's like we're in the wild, where no state will save citizens' calmness and peacefulness."

Esam Al-Zubair, 28, points out, "We understand children's desire to play with fireworks; however, the problem is that many of them play with fireworks in the evening as a result of some parents' lack of supervision of their children."

Ahmed She'elan, 65, complains, "I live with my wife, who is in her 50s. Children disturb us with their fireworks, so we always shout at them. However, because we're old, they make fun of us and increase their disturbance. I complained to their parents and even went to the police station, but to no avail. We really can't bear the

disturbance from fireworks."

Not only does the sound of fireworks disturb others, but the power of their explosion often can injure. Mohammed Al-Olaibi, 20, recalls, "I cut my hand while I was lighting fireworks at my uncle's wedding and it cost me a lot to treat it. Since then, I've given up playing with fireworks."

The Yemeni government uses fireworks merchants and those who use fireworks as a medium to make money. As Lt. Col. Abdullah Naji Jezailan, chief of Himyar police station, states, "We arrest fireworks retailers and send them to prosecution, which releases them after fining them around YR 5,000 as punishment. The same happens to those who use fireworks at weddings."

Col. Hameed Beshr, police chief of Sana'a's Old City district, explains, "We don't call them importers, but rather smugglers because trading in fireworks is forbidden. Some types of fireworks contain strong explosion power, so they really disquiet others and bother police. We apprehend fireworks smugglers, confiscate their fireworks and send them to prosecution. However, because there isn't any legal punishment stipulated against fireworks merchants, the prosecution then releases the merchants with their fireworks."

"We must reconsider the legal punishments and add new items to the law for the sake of criminalizing commerce in fireworks," he added.

However, citizens stress that Yemeni police arrest merchants and those who use fireworks simply in order to extort money from them, not to secure citizens' peace or safety. Mohammed Al-Nedaish, 45, expresses, "It's not the police; rather, it's a gang against citizens because they always try their best to find ways to extort money. So they arrest fireworks retailers and citizens to steal money from them; otherwise, why arrest them and then release them the same day?"

Ahmed Al-Hamdani, 34, asserts, "The police only go after the poor. If any poor people use fireworks at their weddings, they are arrested, fined a lot of money and humiliated in front of their relatives and guests. In this case, the police will apply the law exactly. However, if any official or commander uses fireworks at a wedding, Yemeni police will come and help him."

Attorney Abdu Al-Thabhani comments, "It's true that [Yemeni] law doesn't criminalize using fireworks, so police can't confiscate fireworks or imprison importers and retailers. However, they can do so under the pretext of disturbing the public peace



Fireworks is a dangerous habit especially for children.

and safety."

Some citizens are for using fireworks at weddings and eids, but in an organized manner. As Mohsen Al-Shibami, 34, notes, "I think the problem isn't using fireworks, but rather, how and when to use them because

fireworks are used all over the world as an expression of happiness. What we need is to use fireworks at a suitable time. We shouldn't use them in the evenings and children shouldn't use them during the day – only at a specific time on a specific day."

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## Street children

By: Anwar Mughram  
For Yemen Times

The phenomenon of street children has become a widespread problem in the world, especially the Third World, and is due to multiple reasons, including economic and social situations. Numerous studies conducted at various levels both nationally and internationally indicate that economics represented by poverty are the top reasons for the phenomenon.

The problem has increased in Yemen in a surprising manner over the past decade, attributed to increased rates of unemployment and poverty and partly by lifting government subsidies on foodstuffs and oil products.

Located some 800 kilometers from the capital of Sana'a, Yemen's coastal city of Mukalla is filled with street children, whom one can see every day. They come from remote areas in search of food for themselves and their families whom they left behind.

Thus, the streets become the sole place for such children where they spend both their working hours and their resting times. Lying on cartons with only the sky as their roof, Mukalla street children spend their days and nights there, not resorting to blankets due to the hot weather. When they want to use a toilet, they must wait for mosque bathrooms to open at prayer times.

Regarding the reasons for the phenomenon, which is very common in Mukalla, Mohammed bin Thalib, dean of Hadramout University's Faculty of Education, comments, "There are many reasons, including family disintegration, widespread illiteracy and weak social upbringing of children and orphans."

Psychologist Fouad Al-Salahi believes there are overlapping reasons, including lack of family awareness about children's rights and the risks they face on the streets. Further, the matter also has something to do with poor education levels in Yemeni schools. However, he adds that poverty tops the list of reasons for the phenomenon.

"Poverty, want and extremely low income are the main reasons for the phenomenon," agrees Hassan Al-Odaini, a child street vendor who sells kitchen equipment in Mukalla's women's market, "What causes a father send his child to such a faraway city to work are dire circumstances, poverty and low income."

According to Hamoud Ali, who transports vegetables on his truck from Sana'a to Fouwah Central Market, the street children phenomenon results from poverty and government negli-



Street children are becoming a daily sight in most Yemeni cities.

gence of rural areas, which lack even basic public services and facilities.

He notes that more than 50 street children are from Ibb governorate's Houbaish district, an area deprived of basic services and development projects, together with very few schools.

"I was in fifth grade when I left school and came to work in Mukalla due to my family's poor living conditions because we're unable to meet our daily needs," 10-year-old Muath Al-Shar'abi explains. He adds that his family can't rent a house because they receive little income and thus, they can't afford blankets, mattresses, etc., or pay rent.

Sociologist and researcher Abdullah Al-Mikhlaifi highlights the phenomenon's socio-psychological effects on street children. "Street children are affected by a number of socio-psychological factors, including lack of a proper social upbringing, exposure to assaults and sometimes sexual abuse, together with dropping out of school," he notes.

Mukalla street child Saddam Sa'eed comments, "We live on the streets, so we're exposed to malaria from the mosquitoes spread throughout the city. We're also subjected to sexual harassment and sometimes rape."

He went on to say that Yemeni street children lead miserable lives because they have no custody, protection or rights, pointing out that most of the time, the homeless and misguided drop

out of school.

Mohammed Ali, a street child selling qat in Al-Ghalilah Central Market, affirmed Sa'eed's comments, assuring that street children like him are subject to assaults, mistreatment and sexual abuse by the surrounding society. As proof, he revealed marks and traces of beating on his face and body.

He also mentioned blackmail practiced against street children by their bosses. "They quite often deduct sums from our salary without any apparent reason, except that we are children," Ali lamented, "They don't consider our hard living conditions, together with our families; rather, they treat us as if they have neither families nor children of their own."

What's distinctive about Mukalla street children is that between 90 and 95 percent of them aren't from Mukalla; rather, they are from various Yemeni governorates, including Ibb, Dhamar, Taiz and several others, according to Al-Mikhlaifi.

"Most street children work as street vendors, car cleaners and sometimes beggars. Most of them spend all of their time on the street, lying on cartons, even when sleeping," he explains.

Al-Mikhlaifi adds that street children originally from Mukalla don't exceed 5 percent, mostly working in fish transport and cleaning fruits and vegetables, and found in zones such as Al-Dais, Al-Sharj, Al-Ghalilah and Fouwah.

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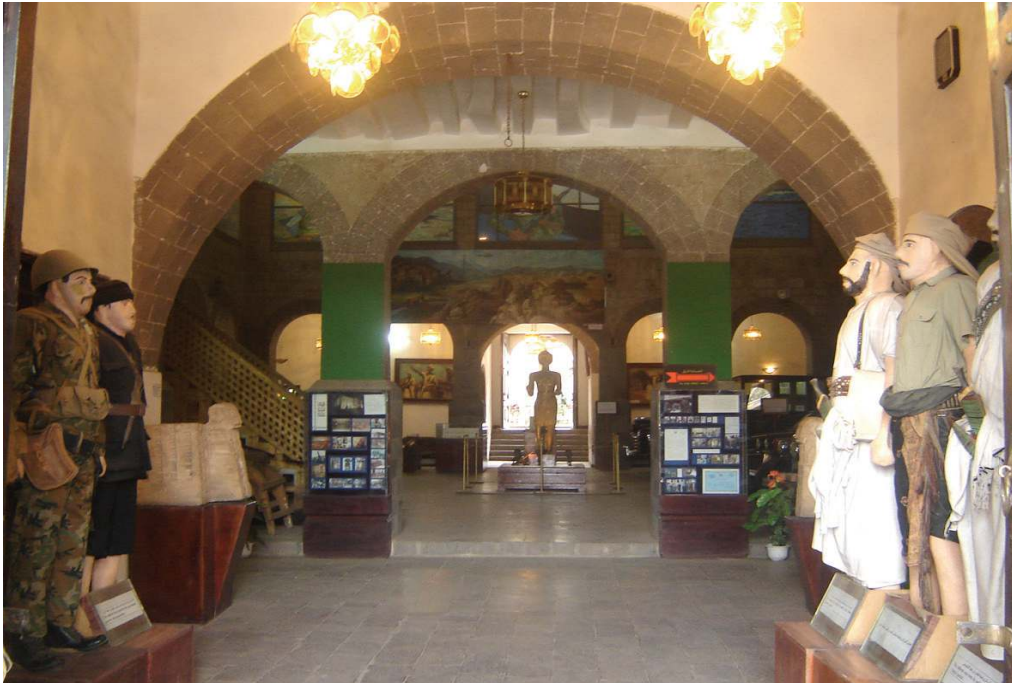
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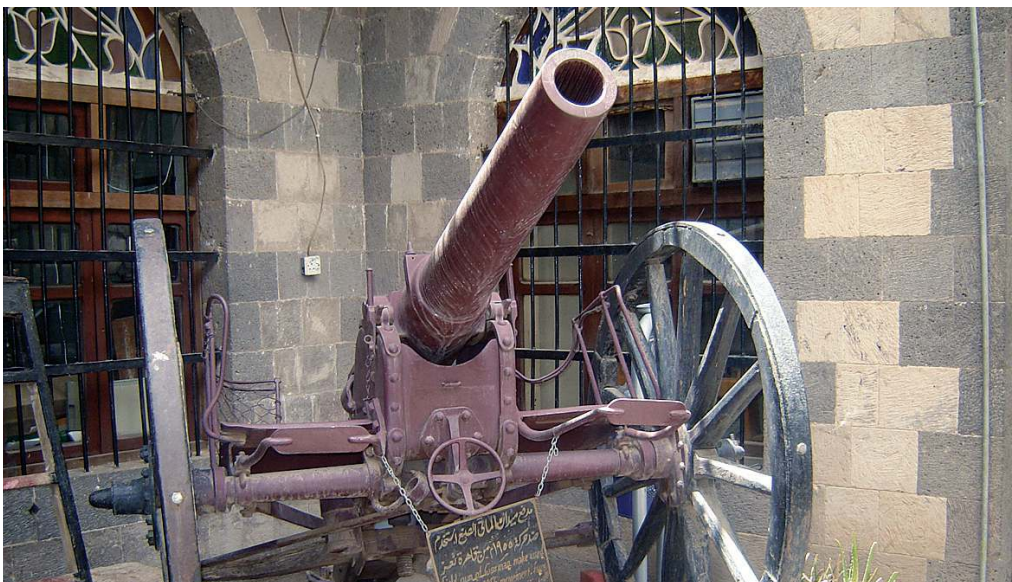
## The Yemeni Military Museum: A journey through Yemen's historical eras



Two lines of statues depicting soldiers throughout the ages welcome museum visitors.



The Military Museum's "internal square," a daily display of ancient cars, cannons and other army weapons.



the back square of the museum show the cannon which used in the 1955 war against Imam Ahmed.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel  
fatimafjr@yahoo.com

Yemeni civilization is rooted deeply in history and considered one of the greatest civilizations that ever existed among both Arab and the world's countries. Yemen's museums are some of the proof of the richness of Yemeni civilizations.

The three main Yemeni museums are: The National Museum, The Public Heritage Museum and The Military Museum, each with a branch in governorates such as Aden, Taiz, Ibb, etc. The Military Museum includes the richness and civilization of Yemen's armed forces and their role in civilizations throughout Yemeni history.

At the museum's door, soldiers stand gently and patiently to welcome every visitor. But in fact, they aren't real soldiers, only statues depicting Yemeni soldiers down through the ages.

The first attraction for visitors are the cars on the first floor, which is called the museum's "internal square." Actually, it's a unique display revealing each car's specific history related to a specific age.

Visitors to the Military Museum must follow its plan and commence their journey on the right side, where the ancient age begins. The museum is laid out gradually, beginning with the era before history and the modern Stone Age in 6,000 B.C.

The Military Museum building itself is a historical place. As mentioned on a sign above the museum door, it initially was built as a school for industrial workers during the Ottoman occupation era at the end of the 19th century in Hijra year 1317, which corresponds to 1902.

It then became an industrial prison for Imam Ahmed Hamedudeen's opponents in 1920 before being converted into a guesthouse for the Iraqi military mission in 1940. It was still a guest-

house at the eruption of the 1962 revolution and then was used for the Ministry of Interior and Security before finally becoming the Military Museum in 1984. Sometimes called the National-Military Museum, it also includes Yemeni achievements in education, exploration and culture, which are reflected in the vault of past Yemeni civilizations.

The museum is divided into 11 halls, with each hall representing a specific era in Yemeni history. They are ordered historically, beginning from the age before history and the Stone Age until the events of Yemeni unity.

The visitors of the military museum are both Yemeni and foreigner's tourists. Every day the museum administration receives Yemeni people from different governorates visiting the museum. "We have a plan for schools and some official delegations who like to make visits to the museum and discover the heritage of Yemeni civilizations in general and the great history of Yemeni army," Mohammed Haza', the responsible of the general relations of the military museum in Sana'a stated.

After visiting the museum's halls, visitors actually will witness Yemen's rich heritage from their short visit around the museum.



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